

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PITTSBURGH COMMITTEE FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE KOREAN WAR

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let my colleagues know about some very important activities that will be taking place in my congressional district in the coming months to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War.

The Korean War lasted three years. Nearly 6 million Americans served in the armed forces during that period, and more than 54,000 Americans died defending South Korea from North Korean and Chinese invaders. The Korean War dramatically shaped the post-World War II world and strongly influenced the course of the Cold War. And yet, the Korean War is often referred to as the "forgotten war" because so much of our attention today is focused on World War II and the Vietnam War. Such an oversight is unacceptable. The Americans who fought—and especially those who died—in the cause of freedom deserve to be remembered. Moreover, they deserve our undying gratitude for their heroic sacrifice. As the Pittsburgh Committee for the Commemoration of the Korean War has observed, no sacrifice made by American service men and women should ever be "forgotten."

Pittsburgh has not forgotten these brave men and women. In fact, Pittsburgh's links to this conflict are quite strong. More than 26,000 Korean War veterans live in Allegheny County, and General Matthew B. Ridgway, commander of the U.S. 8th Army in Korea during a critical period of the war, was a Pittsburgh native. A Korean War memorial has been built on Pittsburgh's North Side to recognize our Korean War veterans' sacrifice, and the Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies has been established at the University of Pittsburgh.

The 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War provides an outstanding opportunity for remembering and acknowledging the heroes of the "forgotten war." With that end in mind, the Pittsburgh Committee for the Commemoration of the Korean War has organized more than two months of events to educate the public about this important conflict and to honor the Americans who served in this bloody conflict. These events include visits to local high schools, academic conferences on the conflict, and flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies.

On June 24, a day-long commemorative event will be held at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Military Museum in Pittsburgh. This event, Pittsburgh Remembers Day, will include 1950s music and a number of historic displays. It will conclude with the

Matthew B. Ridgway Memorial Dinner and a free concert of patriotic music performed by the River City Brass Band. Finally, on the Fourth of July, Pittsburgh's Fourth of July Ceremony at Point Park will include a special salute to Korean War Veterans.

America's veterans have earned our country's gratitude and respect time and time again. It is fitting that on the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War, we pay special attention to the sacrifices made by the men and women who served their country in the "forgotten war." I commend the Pittsburgh Committee for the Commemoration of the Korean War for all of its endeavors in this important cause.

TRIBUTE TO THE GRAYING OF AMERICA AND THE 10TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE ASSISTED LIV- ING FEDERATION OF AMERICA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Assisted Living Federation of America (ALFA) for its ongoing leadership and commitment to improving the quality of life for the more than one million Americans that it serves and assists with activities of daily living. During the week of April 3 in Orlando, FL, ALFA will celebrate its 10th anniversary representing the nation's assisted living providers, continuing care retirement communities, independent living operators and related senior care businesses.

Founded in 1990 to advance the assisted living industry and the quality of life for the consumers that it serves, ALFA broadened its mission in 1999 to encompass all of long-term care, in recognition of the evolving interconnection between assisted living and all senior's housing and care models.

Assisted living is a special combination of housing, personalized supportive services, and health care designated to respond to the individual needs of those who require help with living residences from nursing homes, hospitals, their children's homes, or their own homes.

Assisted living facilities provide a growing number of elderly Americans with an alternative to other types of long-term care and serve an increasingly vulnerable population with significant care needs. The projected number of elderly Americans needing long-term care will double to nearly 14 million over the next 20 years. I therefore applaud the ongoing efforts and leadership of the ALFA to address these new challenges and to lead the way in providing services critical to the independence and well-being of older Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues and me in recognizing the outstanding

and invaluable service to the community of the Assisted Living Federation of America.

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT COLONEL LLOYD VERNON CAMP

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Lloyd Vernon Camp for being selected to be inducted into the National Officer Candidate School Infantry Hall of Fame, in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Lieutenant Colonel Camp joined the U.S. Army in March of 1943. Over the next few years, Camp was stationed in Normandy where he fought to drive the Germans out of France. Upon returning to the States in 1945, he was discharged from service at Camp Beal, California. In April 1947, he reentered the Army and was sent to South Korea as part of the Occupation Forces. Late in 1948 he returned to the U.S. again, and in June of 1949, he attended Officers School in Fort Riley, Kansas. Graduating in December of 1949, he was sent to Fort Benning, Georgia to attend the Basic Officers Course. Upon completion of the course, Camp was sent to Camp Carson, Colorado to assume the duties of a Second Lieutenant Infantry Officer, in the 15th Infantry Regiment. He went on to be a First Lieutenant (1951–1956), Captain (1956–1960), Major (1960–1967), and finally Lieutenant Colonel (1967–retirement).

After many years of service, Camp retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel, to Clovis, California. In 1991 LTC Camp was recalled to Federal Active duty by FORSCOM, and assigned as a Family Support Officer for the Central Valley Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and Air National Guard families during the Desert Storm Operations.

Among his numerous military achievements, LTC Camp received the Distinguished Service Cross; Bronze Star Medal; Combat Infantryman's Badge; European-African Middle Eastern Theater, with 4 Battle Stars; World War II Victory Medal; Good Conduct Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; National Defense Medal; Army Commendation Medal; as well as two foreign military awards, and three California National Guard Awards.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd Vernon Camp for being selected to be inducted into the National Officer Candidate School Infantry Hall of Fame. This induction is well deserved. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Lieutenant Colonel Camp many more years of continued success.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

COMMENDING OSHA, REGION 5
AND THE OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER
OF ASSOCIATED BUILDERS
AND CONTRACTORS

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, as we move into the 21st century it is crucial for us to re-examine our work place laws to enhance co-operation between Federal and State regulators and employers and employees. For our economy to remain strong in the global marketplace we must encourage this participation between Federal regulators and employers and employees to ensure compliance and understanding of safety and health standards.

I want to commend the foresight of the region 5, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Ohio Valley Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors to form a partnership that recognizes the importance of safe and healthful work environments for the construction industry. Their cooperation is a model for promoting the shared strategies and objectives. Accordingly, I submit the Partnering Charter to be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

PARTNERING CHARTER BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, REGION 5, CINCINNATI AREA OFFICE AND THE ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS, INC., OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER

The United States Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., Ohio Valley Chapter (ABC) mutually recognize the importance of providing a safe and healthful work environment for the Nation's construction workforce. To advance our mutual goal, we strongly agree on the need to develop a working relationship that fosters mutual trust and respect for each organization's respective role in the construction safety process. We recognize and embrace the responsibilities inherent in those roles. We are committed to work as partners to achieve construction workplace safety through the following shared strategies and objectives:

1. Implement continuing and open communication policy between OSHA and ABC at all area, regional, chapter and national levels, in a manner that encourages respect and understanding.

2. Share knowledge of the best industry technology, innovations and work practices that improve jobsite safety and health performance.

3. Cooperate in the development and continuous improvement of safety training programs for the construction industry and OSHA personnel.

4. Promote recognition for construction safety excellence throughout the industry at every opportunity.

5. Ensure that enforcement policies and practices are effective, consistent and fair.

6. Promote principles of good faith and fair dealings as the foundation of our relationships.

7. Recognize and honor the Safety Partnership STEP Platinum Incentive Program for a period of three years.

8. Recognize that either party to the partnership may withdraw from the agreement at any time after submitting written notification of intent to the other partner.

Agreed this day, February 11, 2000: Michael G. Connors, Regional Administrator, U.S.

Department of Labor OSHA, Region V, Chicago; William M. Murphy, Area Director, U.S. Department of Labor OSHA, Cincinnati Area Office; Kathleen L. Somers, CAE, Executive Director, Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc., Ohio Valley Chapter; Dennis Nutley, President, Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc., Ohio Valley Chapter.

FREEDOM FROM UNFAIR ENERGY
LEVY ACT

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the Freedom from Unfair Energy Levy Act or "FUEL Act," to alleviate the impact of current high fuel prices. My legislation would place a six-month moratorium on federal motor fuel excise taxes, including the 18.3 cent per gallon tax consumers pay for gasoline and the 24.3 cent per gallon tax on diesel fuel, and eliminate permanently the 4.3 cents per gallon tax increase approved in 1993.

The need for this legislation is evident. Crude oil prices have more than doubled in the past 12 months, resulting in the largest gas price increase in history. In 1993, when fuel prices were low, Democrats in Congress, President Clinton, and a tie-breaking vote by Vice President GORE combined to increase federal fuel taxes. Now that prices are high and consumers are feeling the pinch, shouldn't we reduce federal fuel taxes?

Some have argued that money from fuel taxes is more useful in Washington than in Americans' pockets, helping motorists afford the high price of gasoline. In reality, the economic damage caused by high fuel prices far outweighs any impact on federal spending that a six-month moratorium could cause. High fuel prices have the potential to bring our strong economy to a grinding halt. In the 1970s, when the retail price of gasoline doubled, the U.S. was hit with double digit inflation and unemployment rose to over eight percent. Oil prices dropped precipitously in the '80s and the U.S. economy greatly improved, but, with the crisis in the Persian Gulf in 1990 and 1991, retail prices of gasoline increased nearly 20 cents per gallon. Predictably, this price hike corresponded with a recession and a rise in unemployment to over seven percent. Congress must work to reduce fuel costs if similar economic dislocation is to be avoided.

This record-breaking increase in the cost of gasoline follows a string of misguided Clinton-Gore Administration energy policies. Besides supporting the 1993 increase in the gas tax, the Administration also locked up the cleanest burning coal in the lower 48 states, which could be used to meet America's heating and electricity needs, by designating massive amounts of land in Utah as a National Monument. Further, the Administration has done nothing to increase U.S. oil production. As a result of the Administration's policies, domestic oil production is at its lowest point since before World War II.

With the onset of rising oil prices, the Clinton Administration has had the opportunity to reconsider its energy policies. However, the Administration's response to the growing national problem of rising oil prices has been to

target aid to one region, the Northeast, and to only one group of people, those receiving federal energy subsidies for home heating oil. Other fuel users, including truckers, farmers, and family drivers, are realizing no benefits from the Administration's actions. In contrast, a moratorium on the collection of the federal fuel tax would provide immediate assistance to every American who now bears the burden of rising fuel costs.

The Fuel Act's six-month moratorium on transportation excise taxes and permanent elimination of the 4.3 cent increase will immediately help Americans weather the current oil price storm that is directly impacting their daily lives. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RURAL BROADBAND
ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join Representative STUPAK today as an original cosponsor of the Rural Broadband Enhancement Act (RBEA). This legislation will ensure rural America not be by-passed as high speed Internet access spreads across the urban areas of our nation.

The Rural Broadband Enhancement Act will authorize \$3 billion in low-interest loans over the next five years to finance the construction of the needed broadband infrastructure in rural communities. These loans would be repayable over 30 years at two percent interest. The program would be administered through the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service, and is considered company neutral and technology neutral, so that entities from regional Bells to rural cooperatives to cable or satellite companies would be able to serve these communities with the best suited technology. The Rural Broadband Enhancement Act is modeled on the Rural Electrification Act which helped light up America when it was enacted more than 60 years ago.

We are all well aware that the Internet is now more than just a source of entertainment. Today people use the Internet to access a variety of information, from how to buy a car to the latest trends in the stock market to researching job opportunities or accessing college applications. The Internet is virtually limitless in the variety of information available, and for rural communities, broadband capability has the potential to provide an unprecedented opportunity to overcome the traditional geographic disadvantages.

Access to advanced telecommunications services will be an important component to further economic development opportunities in rural America. High-speed Internet is rapidly transforming every facet of business and industry. Economic opportunities will migrate to those areas of the country that can provide the necessary infrastructure to host them. We must make a strong federal commitment to support the deployment of advanced telecommunications services. Only with adequate support will we be able to stimulate facility investment necessary to deploy advanced services throughout rural areas. We must not let the digital divide isolate our rural communities.

I look forward to working with Representative STUPAK and my other colleagues to help pass this legislation.

HONORING EDWARD R. CASSANO

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Commander Edward R. Cassano, who has served as Manager of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary for the last four years.

Ed will be stepping down from his post at the Sanctuary next week, but he will not be leaving his passion for the ocean. Ed will assume the role of Executive Director at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum.

Ed's commitment to our oceans and coastal resources is second to none. Throughout his tenure as Sanctuary Manager, Ed has led efforts to broaden the role and increase awareness of the National Marine Sanctuary Program and it is for this reason that I have been proud to support our Sanctuary Program here in the House.

One of the things Ed is best known for is his ability to bring people together and create partnerships. For example: the Marine Educators' Regional Alliance represents over 30 organizations concerned with marine education; the Research Activity Panel representing over 25 marine institutions that join together to identify research needs in the Sanctuary; and the Sanctuary Advisory Council which brings together community organization and local, state, and Federal agencies to ensure public input for the Sanctuary Program. All of these were formed under Ed's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, last month the California Coastal Commission passed a Resolution honoring Ed for his dedication and outstanding contribution to the State of California and the National Marine Sanctuary Program. This Resolution states that Ed's work is a proud legacy that has significantly improved the quality of life for the people of California and the Nation. I couldn't agree more and I am truly honored to be Ed's Representative in Congress, and more importantly, his friend. I know that his leadership on marine and coastal issues will continue.

THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, next month, I will have the privilege of visiting the Republic of Kazakhstan to witness firsthand this vigorous young nation's emergence, under the leadership of its President Nursultan Nazarbayev, as a bastion of democracy and free market economy in Central Asia. I am entering into the RECORD three articles written last week by Scott Hogenson, Executive Editor of the Conservative News Service (CNS), who just returned from Kazakhstan. Mr. Hogenson spent time in Kazakhstan reporting on that na-

tion's rich ethnic and cultural diversity, its free media, and its strategic importance to the United States.

At a time when we are paying upwards of \$2.00 for a gallon of gasoline, Kazakhstan is a viable source of hope for us. This non-OPEC member is rapidly developing its enormous oil and natural gas reserves with the help of Mobil, Chevron, and other U.S. corporations. As reported by Mr. Hogenson, Kazakhstan is an ally of the U.S. and a secular Moslem nation that has befriended Israel and stood up against Islamist terrorists.

Please take the time to read these fascinating articles and join me in saluting Kazakhstan's struggle to right itself after 70 years of brutal Soviet repression.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY REFLECTS GAINS IN
KAZAKHSTANI DEMOCRACY
(By Scott Hogenson)

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN (CNSNews.com).—Ivan Bernardovich Zinkevich describes Kazakhstan's transformation from communism to democracy as one that resulted in his Polish heritage being "reborn."

The re-birth of ethnic and cultural identity among Kazakhstan's minority populations was demonstrated in no small part Sunday afternoon when a crowd of about 100 ethnic Poles rose to their feet as a nine-member youth choir sang the Polish national anthem during a cultural celebration in Almaty, an act that would have been considered criminal a few decades ago.

Zinkevich, the 60-year old chairman of Almaty's Polish Cultural Center, called this and other public displays of cultural heritage a "very significant" freedom for Kazakhstanis, who have been laboring to make democracy work since the nation declared its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991.

While the vast majority of Kazakhstan's 15.6 million residents are either Kazakh or Russian, people representing more than 100 other ethnic groups also live in this sparsely populated central Asian nation whose geography makes it the ninth largest country on Earth.

But Zinkevich made it clear that he and the estimated 47,000 ethnic Poles living here do not want to be separate from the rest of the nation. Speaking through a translator, Zinkevich said Poles "want to be Kazakhstanis but also want ethnic identity," within Kazakhstan.

Born in Kazakhstan in 1940, Zinkevich is the son of Polish parents who, like millions of other non-Russians, were deported to this region of the former USSR in 1936 under the dictatorship of Joseph Stalin. More than half a century later, the mass deportation of people to Kazakhstan has resulted in a population that is among the most diverse in the world.

While many of the new nations created from the demise of the Soviet Union have struggled with varying degrees of ethnic strife, Zinkevich said there are "no conflicts," among Kazakhstan's ethnic peoples, a view shared by the leader of the country's National Democratic Party.

Hasen Kozha-Ahmet, who heads one of the numerous opposition parties to President Nursultan Nazarbayev, described the country's indigenous Kazakh population as "very tolerant," though he said through a translator that there is a "distrust of some ethnic Russians among some of the nation's Kazakhs, who comprise roughly 52 percent of Kazakhstan's citizens. Russians are the second largest ethnic group in the country, representing about 31 percent of the population.

A staunch Kazakh nationalist and anti-Communist, Kozha-Ahmet attributed some

of the distrust he described to "the humiliation of the Kazakh people," under Soviet rule. But Kozha-Ahmet said he is generally pleased and optimistic about continued harmony between the many ethnic groups living in Kazakhstan.

Although general tolerance among the various peoples plays a large part in keeping Kazakhstan essentially free of ethnic strife, the growth of free-market economies also plays a part in maintaining social and political stability.

Sergy A. Tereschenko, chairman of the majority Otan Party that supports Nazarbayev's administration, said continued emphasis on economic reforms and creating stronger markets are not only key elements of the party's platform, but also represent "the most difficult issue," for his party and the nation.

"If a majority (of citizens) does not have work, they express dissatisfaction," said Tereschenko, a former communist who assumed leadership of the Otan Party after serving as Nazarbayev's first prime minister.

Speaking through a translator, Tereschenko likened the "establishment of a middle-class," in Kazakhstan to the Biblical account of the Jews' 40-year sojourn through the desert.

"It is very difficult to show benefits to capitalism," said Tereschenko, an agricultural businessman who said he repudiated the economic precepts of communism after studying and learning the business structures of the United States and other democracies during the course of his travels abroad.

The economic challenges facing the people of Kazakhstan and their associated political challenges for the Otan Party are not small. With a population that is shrinking due to emigration by some from Kazakhstan and the continuing recovery from the nation's economic contraction following its independence from the old USSR, Tereschenko emphasized the importance of writing legislation and policies "that are clear to the people."

"To accept law is one thing. To explain it is another," said Tereschenko, who added that a primary need for the Otan Party is to "prove the value (of democracy) by demonstration." The Otan Party holds 32 seats in the 77-member Majilis, or lower chamber of Kazakhstan's Parliament. By comparison, Kazakhstan's Communist Party holds four seats in the Majilis.

In attempting to overcome the difficulties of throwing off communism and introducing the relatively unknown precepts of free-market economic policies to a people who have enjoyed little freedom for the past two centuries, Nazarbayev had issued a sweeping package of proposed long-term reforms known as the "Kazakhstan 2030" plan.

Nazarbayev's proposals address a wide range of needs and goals for the nation, covering national security and domestic stability, management of the country's large oil and mineral reserves, the development of a professional class of government employees, education, health care and other social issues, increased economic growth through open markets, and improving the country's communications and transportation infrastructure.

In delivering his Kazakhstan 2030 proposals, Nazarbayev spoke to all citizens in asking the country to "share my vision for the future of our society and the mission of our state," but there also is a strong emphasis on the younger generation of Kazakhstanis and the need to "say once and for all what future we want to build for us and our children."

The long view of Kazakhstan 2030 is reflected in part by Nazarbayev's recognition

of the "enormous domestic and external difficulties," facing the country. "Many representatives of our generation won't live to the time when this strategy will be realized," Nazarbayev said. "Our children will estimate its reality and the correctness of the work implemented by us."

While the complete implementation of Nazarbayev's plan remains a distant vision, some of the benefits of the president's stewardship over this infant democracy could be seen in the faces of dozens of teenagers practicing Greek line dancing Sunday at Almaty's House of Friendship, a multi-cultural center in the heart of Kazakhstan's largest city.

The youth smiled as they worked out to the quickening pace of music from Zorba the Greek, executing the sometimes complicated maneuvers of the dance and correcting the errors brought to their attention by their instructor.

The act of espousing a culture foreign to one's homeland may seem small among better established democracies but its significance is not lost on Kazakhstanis who lived through an era in which openly embracing one's heritage was forbidden.

As Polish Cultural Center Chairman Ivan Zinkevich said, the newfound freedom to celebrate their ethnicity is "a big happiness," for Kazakhstanis travelling the sometimes-rocky road to democracy.

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**NAZARBAYEV SLAPS US STATE DEPARTMENT
 REPORT ON KAZAKHSTAN**
 (By Scott Hogenson)

ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN (CNSNews.com).—A US State Department report on Kazakhstan was singled out for criticism Tuesday by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who called the report one that was "full of untrue facts" about the country.

Nazarbayev said the Clinton Administration briefing falsely accuses Kazakhstan of holding political prisoners, torture, broad government control of the news media and misstates the process by which judges and other officials are appointed.

While acknowledging generally good relations between the US and Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev warned that the inaccuracies in the State Department's report on this central Asian country "makes the distance between the two nations larger," and said he wanted an opportunity to "make a presentation" to correct the record.

US State Department officials were not available for comment by press time, but its 1999 report on human rights noted irregularities in that year's presidential elections and claimed Nazarbayev held the power to legislate by decree.

Federal judges and other appointed officials in Kazakhstan must be ratified by the Senate, according to the Kazakh constitution. The process is similar to that in the US, where federal judges and other presidential appointees are subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Kazakhstan also faced criticism from the Organization for Stability and Cooperation in Europe, which monitored last October's parliamentary elections and said "interference by executive authorities in the broader electoral process must be halted."

But Nazarbayev, a former communist leader in the old USSR, pointed to the range of political parties represented in the Kazakhstan Parliament as evidence of the country's continued progress in strengthening democracy here.

The Kazakhstan Majilis, or lower house of Parliament, includes members from four political parties, including communists. The majority Otan Party, which supports Nazarbayev, holds 32 seats in the 77-member body.

Nazarbayev made his remarks through a translator during a news briefing with members of a Visiting Writers Delegation from the United States Tuesday afternoon in the capital city of Astana.

Other members of the delegation included American Spectator founder and publisher R. Emmett Tyrrell and Hoover Institution Senior Research Fellow William Ratiliff from Stanford University.

Nazarbayev acknowledged some shortcomings in recent elections in Kazakhstan, and government officials attributed most of the irregularities to misunderstanding of the process. Kazakhstan declared its independence from the former Soviet Union in December 1991 and has been instituting democratic and free-market reforms for the past nine years.

Kazakhstan has also been the focus of criticism by the US-based group Human Rights Watch, which reported last year that the government was engaged in censorship and manipulation of the electoral process. However, the presence of independent media in Kazakhstan was evident in Astana and Almaty, the nation's largest city and business center.

News photographers from independent television stations in Kazakhstan were routinely visible around the nation's capital this week, and a news conference attended by an estimated 20 reporters was in progress outside Nazarbayev's office immediately prior to the president's briefing with the US Writers Delegation.

Aides to Nazarbayev also said the president meets monthly with reporters from private media to conduct the equivalent of general news conferences.

While most media were controlled by the government during Kazakhstan's inclusion in the former Soviet Union, the country has made progress in transferring news outlets into private hands since repudiating communism, and independent news organizations have sprouted in large numbers since communist rule here was replaced with democracy.

According to the Ministry of Culture, Information and Public Accord, the number of newspapers in Kazakhstan has increased from 20 to 1,000 during the past decade, with an estimated 70 percent now under private ownership.

Similarly, Culture, Information and Public Accord Minister Altynbeck Sarsenbayev said the government currently operates one television news outlet while about 100 additional private television companies exist today.

Prior to joining the Nazarbayev administration, Sarsenbayev ran The Horizon, which he described as the only independent newspaper in Kazakhstan under communist rule in 1988.

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**KAZAKHSTANI PRESIDENT SUSPECTS
 TERRORISM AIMED AT OIL EXPORTS**
 (By Scott Hogenson)

ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN (CNSNews.com).—Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev Tuesday said he suspects certain Islamist terrorist activities outside the country are intended to impede the country's growth as a major oil producing state.

Citing the example of Chechen rebels warring with Russian troops in Chechnya, Nazarbayev said through a translator that he suspects some terrorist activities are designed "to make obstacles to oil transportation," by creating political instability in areas where future Kazakh oil pipelines are being considered.

Nazarbayev made it clear he intends to make Kazakhstan's growing oil industry competitive with other major oil producing states and said that while "we don't see any

direct threat to Kazakhstan," the government needs to work harder to combat "terrorism and banditism" as part of that plan.

Nazarbayev is Muslim, as are an estimated 47 percent of Kazakhstanis, making it the predominate religion practiced here.

This is a snapshot of pipeline politics: While American consumers are struggling with rising gasoline prices at the pumps, Nazarbayev and other government officials in Kazakhstan's capital city of Astana are struggling with the more onerous challenge of getting their massive oil reserves out of the ground and into the global marketplace.

The challenges in developing Kazakhstan's oil reserves, estimated to be among the largest on the planet, are compounded by a combination of financial, political and diplomatic considerations, according to officials interviewed by CNSNews.com.

The potential revenues and increased employment for Kazakhstanis associated with the country's growing oil industry are key components in the economic future of the country and are part of a broader political priority as well.

Minister of Culture, Information and Public Accord Altynbeck Sarsenbayev said the most important goals for Kazakhstan are to "strengthen our independence and free-market economy," and the government's attention to oil reflects its importance in achieving those goals.

As an emerging democracy that declared its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, this landlocked central Asian country is highly dependent on foreign investments to meet the multi-billion dollar cost of developing Kazakhstan's potential as a major player in the international oil arena.

Kazakhstan's Agency on Investments believes it will cost as much as \$160 billion to fully tap the country's oil reserves, and agency Chairman Doulat O. Kuanyshiev said efforts to attract foreign investment in Kazakhstan represent "the best opportunity to make a political statement" for Nazarbayev.

"Oil is always politics, not only money," said Kuanyshiev.

Kazakhstan has projected oil reserves of 110 billion barrels by 2015, which would place it among the top three oil-producing nations in the world, and the Nazarbayev administration has attempted to create what it hopes will become a political and economic climate that is conducive to the full exploitation of the country's vast reserves.

The development of Kazakhstan's potential as an oil producing nation is so important, the Kazakh constitution offers numerous legal protections for foreign investors and the Parliament has passed laws offering sizable tax advantages to firms willing to make investments in the country.

Among the "privileges and preferences" afforded outside investors through the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Investment are five-year long income and property tax holidays of up to 100 percent, additional tax holidays at a reduced rate, conferred land rights, and waivers on customs fees and tariffs on the importation of materials needed to continue building Kazakhstan's oil producing infrastructure.

These incentives are evidence of Kazakhstan's efforts to establish a viable democracy and free market economy after having broken away from communism less than a decade ago. "There is no way we can go back to the system we escaped from," said Zharmakhan Tuyakbai, the chairman of Kazakhstan's Majilis, the Lower House of the Parliament.

Tuyakbai is the equivalent of the speaker of the US House of Representatives and is a member of the majority Otan Party, which supports Nazarbayev.

Despite the large oil reserves in Kazakhstan, the country's three main oil refineries are operating far below capacity, according to government data. Oil deliveries were more than 50 percent below the combined capacity of the Shymkent, Pavlodar and Atyrau refineries in 1998, and the government calls upgrading the country's refining operations "a top priority."

Currently, Chevron and Mobil/Exxon are among the largest US investors in developing Kazakhstan's oil reserves.

Large as the challenge of drilling for oil is, a greater challenge lies in delivering these reserves to customers around the world. Kazakhstan is landlocked, so all of its oil must be delivered via pipeline or shipped through the Caspian Sea and through other oil producing states in the Middle East.

Oil is currently exported from Kazakhstan via a single pipeline running through Russia. But Kuanyshhev said the completion of a second pipeline to the Black Sea is expected to have what he called "an enormous impact" on Kazakhstan's role as an oil-producing nation.

Kuanyshhev said the Black Sea pipeline, scheduled to begin operations in the autumn of 2001, would nearly double the country's current oil output and open global markets for Kazakh oil for the first time in the country's history.

The politics of further pipeline development include some of the most complex issues facing Kazakhstan. An analysis of various pipeline options indicates that some proposals, like one examining a pipeline through Chechnya, are unworkable at this time because of continued warring there.

The Chechens have not recognized Russian rule over them since the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the absence of independence for Chechnya makes the chances for such a pipeline route slim.

Other options are complicated by US foreign policy, including various proposals involving Iran, a route that is considered by many to be the most direct way of delivering Kazakhstan's oil to world markets.

US sanctions against Iran and American opposition to more Iranian pipelines makes such options less viable, according to Kazakhstan officials, but an aide to Nazarbayev said the president is "satisfied with overall US relations" at this time.

Even if a Kazakh pipeline to Iran could be established, it's not likely Kazakhstan would consider membership in OPEC, with one government official saying that Kazakhstan's strategy for oil production and exportation is "inconsistent" with current OPEC policy.

Upon completion of the Black Sea pipeline next year, Kazakhstan is expected to focus on a long-range project to build a pipeline that would run directly to the Mediterranean Sea via Azerbaijan and Turkey.

A pipeline connecting Kazakhstan to the Mediterranean would represent a significant leap for the country, officials said. Not only would such a pipeline increase the country's total oil exports, it also would alleviate the strategic risks that can be associated with having to ship products through the Black Sea and the narrow passage that connects it to the Mediterranean.

The internal political implications are also considerable for Kazakhstan. Nazarbayev's Press Secretary, Asylbek K. Bisenbayev, said the means of exporting oil are even more important than increasing production if the country is to continue moving forward with free-market reforms.

"Oil is important to developing a middle-class in Kazakhstan," said Bisenbayev, underscoring the need to shrink the income gap between rich and poor. With the expansion of the country's middle-class also being a political imperative for the majority Otan Party,

the future of democracy in Kazakhstan hinges in large part on tapping the oil beneath it.

APPOINTMENT OF JOE MCDADE, FORMER MEMBER OF PENNSYLVANIA 10TH DISTRICT FOR 36 YEARS

HON. DON SHERWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the members of the House the selection of their former colleague, Joe McDade, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ford's Theatre Society. The Society is non-profit organization whose mission is to produce live entertainment on the historic stage at Ford's Theatre. Musicals and plays are produced at Ford's Theater that highlight our nation's multiculturalism and the diversity of American life.

Congressman McDade served with great distinction as the Representative of Pennsylvania's 10th District for 36 years. His contributions to the prosperity and well-being of his constituents are legendary in Pennsylvania and his service to his nation, particularly on the Appropriations Committee, is well known by the Members of this Chamber. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of ETA, a respected government relations firm based in Washington.

Joe McDade is an excellent selection for Chairman of the Board at Ford's Theater Society. He has always been a strong advocate and genuine aficionado of the arts, having served on the Ford's Board since 1970 and on the Kennedy Center Board for 25 years, where he is a Trustee Emeritus. He is also a Trustee Emeritus at the University of Scranton, and serves as a Board member for Allied Services for the Handicapped.

Congressman McDade's achievements have been recognized by several organizations, including the National Parks and Recreation Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania American Legion, the National Association of Defense Lawyers and the National Osteoporosis Association.

The Secretary of Defense awarded Congressman McDade the Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest civilian award that can be given by the Department of Defense, and Governor Tom Ridge honored Joe McDade's work by issuing an executive order establishing "Joe McDade Day."

I know that my colleagues would join me in congratulating Congressman McDade for his selection as Chairman of the Board for the Ford's Theater Society and wishing him the very best as he carries out his important new responsibilities.

INTRODUCING THE HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RICHARD K. ARMEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, proudly I join my colleague from California, Mr. DOOLEY, in in-

roducing the Health CARE Act. The word "CARE" in the title stands for Coverage, Access, Relief, and Equity. Mr. Dooley and I believe this legislation will provide those things for millions of uninsured Americans. We regard this new bipartisan bill as affordable and enactable, and we will work to pass it this year.

Identical legislation is being introduced in the Senate by a group composed of three Republicans, Senators JEFFORDS of Vermont, FRIST of Tennessee, and SNOWE of Maine, and two Democrats, Senators BREAU of Louisiana and LINCOLN of Arkansas.

The CARE Act creates a tax credit for the purchase of health insurance, and is to be the first in a series of measures that our bipartisan, bicameral group will propose to address the chronic problem of uninsurance in our country. Today, at any given moment, forty-four million Americans can be found who lack health-insurance coverage. They become uninsured for a variety of reasons, and it will take a variety of responses to address this growing problem.

I should note here that the CARE Act is very similar to a bill I introduced last summer under the title of the "Fair Care for the Uninsured Act" (H.R. 2362). The CARE Act differs from Fair Care mainly in being less costly and thus, I hope, more enactable. The basic principles of the two bills are the same, and I will continue to work for the enactment of Fair Care as my long-term objective. I will not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. The CARE Act is a good first step and a solid proposal in its own right.

Experts agree the uninsurance problem is caused in large part by Section 106 the Internal Revenue Code. Section 106 gives an extremely generous tax break for the purchase of health coverage, if it is purchased through one's place of employment but not if it is purchased elsewhere. This discriminates against people who buy their insurance outside the workplace. Such discrimination may have been tolerable in the 1940s and 1950s, when it was common for a citizen to be employed at one large company for most or all of his or her working lifetime. But it is completely out of step with today's dynamic workforce. Today, this health penalty tax, as I call it, falls most heavily on people who are mobile and part-time, on day laborers, farm workers, and the like. It falls especially hard on Hispanic Americans, who are often employed in these ways, and one-third of whom are uninsured nationally.

Section 106 is unfair in another way. It discriminates against lower-paid workers. Because today's tax-code is progressive, taxing people at increasingly higher rates as their incomes rise, tax breaks like Section 106 are by definition more generous to those in the higher tax brackets. Thanks to this regressive aspect of our system of progressive taxation—a system I hope to see replaced someday by the Flat Tax—the highly paid CEO today gets a much more generous tax break for health coverage than does the waitress at the corner coffee shop. This unfairness needs to be addressed.

Right now, the ranks of the uninsured are swelling by more than 100,000 persons a month, and it appears this pace will continue unabated until we go to the root of the uninsurance problem, and that is the tax code. The time has come for a more equitable tax

treatment of health insurance. If Americans were given health-care tax breaks without regard to where they work, or how much they make, it will go a long way to ending the uninsurance problem in this country.

The Health CARE Act would address the inequities of the tax code by creating a new tax credit for the purchase of private health insurance, in the amount of \$1,000 for a self-only policy and \$2,000 for a family policy. A person could use this credit toward the purchase of any qualified private health-insurance policy, including so-called "COBRA" coverage between jobs. If the person is paying for insurance on his own, he could apply the credit toward the cost of that coverage. The credit would be available regardless of where the person works or how much insurance he purchases. He could use it even if he owes no income tax. He could begin using it as soon as he signed up for insurance. He would not have to wait for a refund check from the IRS.

A person would be eligible for the credit if he met all of the following conditions: First, he is not already covered by a federal-government health insurance program. Second, he is not offered an employer-subsidized health plan through his place of work. Third, his annual adjusted gross income is less than \$35,000 (if it is a self-only policy) or \$55,000 (if it is a family policy). Persons making up to \$10,000 a year more than these amounts would receive a reduced credit, which is phased-down over the range.

Experts believe that any health-care tax credit must be worth at least 30 to 50 percent of the cost of an average health-insurance policy in order for people to be willing and able to use it to buy private health insurance. The Health CARE Act credit is worth about 40 percent of the price of a self-only policy, and about 30 percent of the price of a family policy, depending on one's health status and the general cost of health care in one's region of the country. As a result, the credit will be available to an estimated 21.5 million currently uninsured Americans, and would help an estimated 5.5 million Americans who are now paying for health insurance without the benefit of any federal health-care tax breaks. The CARE Act credit would enable at least 3.2 million uninsured Americans to afford private health coverage, according to the Lewin Group, a private health-policy consultancy in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, as a resident of the State with the highest uninsurance rate in the nation, I think tax equity for the uninsured is a moral, economic, and political imperative.

The CARE Act is, in sum, a bipartisan proposal that offers real hope to Americans shut out of work-based coverage, makes health-care tax benefits fairer for all workers, begins to repeal the health penalty tax, gets more Americans covered, and does all of this while preserving the employer-based system of coverage on which most Americans rely.

I am proud of this legislation and will work hard with my Democratic partner, Mr. DOOLEY, to pass it this year.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NASA-GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the men and women of the NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, and congratulate them on their continued success as one of our Nation's premier space flight centers. In December, Goddard led a successful mission to service the Hubble space telescope and launched the Terra spacecraft, the first of an exciting line of satellites based at Goddard.

During the 1999 holiday season, the Hubble was given new navigation equipment and an improved vision of the universe. During an 8-day mission, beginning on December 19, the crew of the space shuttle *Discovery* captured, serviced, and redeployed the Hubble space telescope. On Christmas day it was released back into orbit, returning it to full operation with a new and improved view of the universe.

Through these improvements, Hubble scientists, for the first time in its 10-year history, have identified and implemented a value measurement for how fast the universe is expanding. This rate of expansion—the Hubble constant—is essential in determining the age and size of the universe.

In addition to the great accomplishments with the Hubble, on December 18, the first Earth-observing system satellite was successfully launched. This system, known as Terra is operating as expected and will enable new research into the ways Earth's land mass, oceans, air, ice, and life interact as a whole climate.

Since 1993, NASA has cut the cost of missions by two-thirds and has cut the time it takes to develop spacecraft by 40 percent. NASA is also launching an average of four times as many science missions per year.

The great successes of Goddard Space Flight Center would not be possible without the outstanding support that has been provided by the contracting and business community of this region. Their efforts, in partnership with NASA, have been critical in placing Goddard in the forefront of space technology and giving the United States the recognition of being number one in space exploration and know-how.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, as we enter the new millennium, let us continue to support the men and women leading us onto the new frontier of space exploration. These men and women of the Goddard Space Flight Center are furthering our knowledge of the planet and the universe by which we are surrounded. I thank the astronomers, scientists, and the entire space exploration community for a job well done.

PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS EXPANSION ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to fund the expan-

sion annex of the historic Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe, New Mexico. This is a companion bill to S. 1727 introduced in the Senate by Senator PETE V. DOMENICI.

The Palace of the Governors is the last remaining structure of a compound built between 1605 and 1610 by the Government of Spain. For centuries the compound, known also as "Las Casas Reales", served as a military and administrative center for the Spanish colonial empire, and functioned as the legislative chambers and official residence for those who governed New Mexico under the Flags of Spain, Mexico, and the territorial United States. This included 66 Spaniards, 17 Mexicans, and 22 U.S. Territorial Governors. Moreover, during what is known as the Pueblo Rebellion of 1680, the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico converted the historic structure into an Indian village until the Spanish return in 1692.

In 1909, the capitol for the New Mexican territorial government was moved to a more modern building, and the Palace of the Governors was designated as the Museum of New Mexico. Today, the Museum's collections include over 15,000 artifacts and priceless art works, 530,000 photographic images, 15,000 books, 450 linear feet of manuscripts, and 6,000 prints and maps. These precious items are irreplaceable historical and cultural artifacts, as they represent time periods spanning from the initial European exploration and colonization of the Southwest in the 16th century, to the birth of the atomic age and the exploration of space in the twentieth century. Some of Museum's artifacts include helmets and armor worn by soldiers in the expedition of Don Juan De Onate who established the first capital in the United States in July of 1598, and led the first permanent European community in the United States. These proud and independent people, whose direct descendants thrive to this day in New Mexico, introduced horses, cows, donkeys, sheep, and agricultural technology. Together with the Native Americans they contributed to what is New Mexico's rich culture.

As another example of its fascinating holdings, the museum also houses the Railway station clock that was shot as Pancho Villa invaded the United States. The clock, its pendulum stopped by a bullet, captured the exact moment in time, when the last invasion of the continental United States took place.

Today, the Palace is visited by thousands of visitors from around the world who tour the exhibits, and then purchase fine Native American artwork sold by Native peoples under the portal in front of the Palace. This trade between cultures has taken place daily for hundreds of years, and is a testament to the interaction between different cultures.

Tragically, these many unique examples of Spanish, Native American, Mexican, and U.S. history face imminent destruction if immediate measures are not taken to provide safe and adequate storage, and proper exhibit facilities. Currently the major portion of the collections has no protection from loss by fire, flooding or disintegration and the buildings where the collections are stored are over 90 years old, with a steam heating system that contributes deterioration of the collections.

Recognizing this disastrous situation, a group of my fellow New Mexicans have undertaken the task of planning for the construction of a modern and technologically advanced annex, the size of which will permit the rich

multi-cultural history of the southwest to be made available to present and future generations. Over time they have raised almost \$6 million from state, city, and private sources to acquire a building, the land, and planning for the new annex. The amount, however, is far from sufficient enough to meet the projected total project cost of an additional \$32 million. Thus, it is imperative that Federal funds be provided.

The bill I am presenting today will help ensure these treasures are protected and funds are provided, so that we save the irreplaceable collections of the Palace of the Governors from the danger of being forever lost. The bill would authorized \$15 million dollars through the Department of Interior, and will assist the Palace of the Governors construct and also equip their new annex. It will also make the vast collections available for exhibition to future generations of Americans and for study by scholars who currently cannot access them because of a lack of appropriate facilities.

Mr. Speaker, the Palace of the Governors is not only an irreplaceable jewel in New Mexico's history, but the history of our Hispanic Southwest and our country as a whole. I urge that we act to support this aspect of our nation's history with the foresight that will reward our children with these unique, historical, and cultural gifts drawn from our country's amazing diversity.

TRIBUTE ON THE PASSING OF DR.
HARGROVE F. WOOTEN

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tonight I pay tribute to an outstanding man, community leader and distinguished Physician, Dr. Hargrove F. Wooten. I was saddened at hearing of the passing of Dr. Wooten: husband, father, grandfather, colleague, and friend to those who knew him.

Dr. Wooten was born in Jacksonville, Florida on October 9, 1925. As a child, he attended local public schools in Jacksonville. In Jacksonville, Dr. Watson dreamed of enriching the life of his community and becoming a doctor. He would later pursue his dreams at Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy and Meharry Medical College, where he earned his doctorate in medicine. At these two prestigious and renowned universities, his goals to pursue a medical career were nurtured and his dedication to his community was enriched.

Dr. Watson continued to further his education by obtaining his Master of Science degree at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas and completed his residency in Ophthalmology at the University of Texas Health Science Center. After completing his medical degree, he serves an intern through a rotating internship in Houston and was the first African-American to intern at the Memorial Hospital system.

As a practicing pharmacist and CEO of the self entitled Wooten's Pharmacy Chain, a university physician for the University of Houston from 1966 to 1972 and CEO of both Physicians Eye Associates and Hargrove F.

Wooten M.D. and Associates, Dr. Wooten tirelessly worked to improve the health of Houston area residents.

Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Wooten's leadership was sought and admired by many of his peers. He served as the President of both the Houston Pharmaceutical Association, the Lone Star State Pharmaceutical Association, and the Houston Medical Forum. In 1994–1996, Dr. Wooten was elected by Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity to be their Grand Sire Archon. In addition, he was a member in sixteen honorary, professional and civic organizations including the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Chi Delta Mu Professional Fraternity and the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

As a husband, Dr. Wooten was his wife's best friend, companion, and advisor. As a father, he was his three daughters' counselor, aide, and friend. A father in the true sense of the word and a man of the finest hour, Dr. Wooten was a friend, mentor and counselor to many. His daughters, Florence, Patrice and Sharon knew that he loved them through his 49 years of matrimony to their mother, Eleanor.

At this sad time, I offer the Wooten Family my deepest sympathy. While I am aware that no words of consolation can ease the hurt and sense of loss that you now feel, I hope that in time, you will be comforted by the legacy of accomplishments that he left behind. I hope that the fond memories of experiences you shared with him will continue to inspire you in the future.

SUPPRESSION OF PEACEFUL
DEMONSTRATORS IN BELARUS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, March 9, I chaired a hearing of the Helsinki Commission at which we heard compelling and disturbing testimony about the deterioration of human rights and democracy in Belarus. I was pleased to have as one of our witnesses Anatoly Lebedka, Deputy Chairman of Belarus' legitimate parliament, disbanded by Belarusian strongman Alyaksandr Lukashenka following an illegitimate 1996 referendum.

Unfortunately, Mr. Lebedka was one of some 500 people arrested last weekend, during a peaceful pro-democracy demonstration in Miensk. He was reportedly beaten and spent two days in detention before he was released. He is scheduled to go to trial on April 4. Also detained without explanation were more than 30 Belarusian, Russian and Polish journalists. Film shot by press photographers was reportedly confiscated. Aleh Hrudzilovich, a journalist with the opposition newspaper Nasha Svaboda and Radio Liberty who was initially detained on March 25, was summoned for interrogation on March 27, handcuffed, and then hit several times in the face while being transported by police to a detention center. He was released later that day. Other detainees also reportedly suffered physical abuse by the police. Several demonstrators have been put on trial, and some have already been sentenced to short-term detentions.

Mr. Speaker, during the Helsinki Commission hearing, I asked Mr. Lebedka about the

scheduled March demonstrations, where he expressed the fear that there might be deliberate provocations by the police, as had been the case at a Freedom March rally last October. Fortunately, a large peaceful protest held on March 15 was held without any problems. According to many observers, including Mr. Lebedka, the growing number of participants in the officially-approved 30,000 strong March 15 demonstration prompted Lukashenka to take harsh measures against the March 25 demonstrators. Indeed, this comports with Lukashenka's recent warning that protestors who "get out of line" will have "the stuffing" beat out of them.

Mr. Speaker, the suppression of the March 25 demonstration is yet another illustration of the Lukashenka regime's disregard for fundamental human rights, including freedom of assembly and association, and information. It is another among a long list of outrages perpetrated by Lukashenka upon the people of Belarus. It is yet another in a pattern of violations of human rights commitments, which Belarus freely undertook when it joined the OSCE in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to reiterate my strong concern for the safety of Anatoly Lebedka and all the other pro-democracy activists in Belarus, and I look forward to the day when democracy will flourish someday in Belarus.

IN HONOR OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today I salute an outstanding group of young women in the Fourth Congressional District of Kentucky. This weekend, the Northern Kentucky University Women Basketball team—the Norse—won the NCAA Division II National Championship in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Their achievement capped a year of hard work and dedication, and they are role models for girls and boys in Kentucky and across the nation.

I also congratulate Nancy Winstel, now in her 17th season as Head Coach. Nancy is a native of Newport, Kentucky, and a graduate of NKU. She played for the Norse from 1974 to 1977. Nancy returned to the University in 1981 as an assistant coach, and has served as head coach since 1983. During her tenure, the Norse have compiled a 362–120 overall record and have made ten NCAA tournament appearances. Winning the 2000 National Championship is a particularly fitting reward for her 22 years of commitment to the NKU Women's Basketball program.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I failed to commend Michelle Cottrell, a starting forward for the Norse, and the Most Outstanding Player for this year's tournament. During the final game, Michelle scored 23 points and tallied 19 rebounds. Her double-double is not surprising to anyone who has watched her play over the years; this season, she scored an average of 17.3 points and 9.4 rebounds. Michelle is a graduate of Boone County High School, and I know that the entire Northern Kentucky community takes pride in her accomplishments.

I also salute the other members of the team, many of whom were also raised in Northern

Kentucky. I submit their names here for the record: Heather Livingstone, of Winneconne, Wisconsin; Suzie Smith, of Florence, Kentucky; Michele Tuchfarber, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Rebecca Bell, of Taylor Mill, Kentucky; Lisa Geiman, of Cold Spring, Kentucky; Julie Cowens, of Cold Spring, Kentucky; Amy Mobley, of Harrison, Ohio; Bridget Flanagan, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Kristin Polosky, of Bobtown, Pennsylvania; and Jessica Jenson, of Barberton, Ohio. I also recognize Assistant Coaches Brian Neal and Chris Gramke.

Mr. Speaker, in this era when we worry about role models for our children, I am proud to know these young women. They have proven that athletics can help instill values like hard work, discipline, and teamwork. I know that young people all over the Commonwealth and across the Nation will recognize the achievements of NKU Women's Basketball and follow their example. As for myself, I am looking forward to another exciting season of Norse basketball in 2000–2001.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE
UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation to reauthorize the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This spring will mark 7 years of success for the Museum, which is visited by millions of people each year through its acclaimed exhibitions, education opportunities, publications, and outreach programs. Created by a unanimous act of Congress in 1980, the Museum continues to receive strong support and recognition.

In addition to its primary mission of advancing and communicating knowledge of Holocaust history, the Museum offers an opportunity for its visitors to reflect upon the moral and spiritual questions raised by the Holocaust. The success of the Museum clearly demonstrates the public's deep interest in contemplating and gaining valuable lessons from the Holocaust.

Some of the key accomplishments that illustrate the exceptional success of the Museum over the past 7 years include:

Nearly 14 million visitors, of which 3.7 million have been children. In addition, 61 heads of state have visited, along with 2,000 foreign officials from 130 nations.

In response to public demand, the development of educational and scholarly outreach, with the Museum sponsoring travel exhibitions in 27 cities over the past several years.

Over 1.5 million visits to its web site each year.

Educational materials and programs serving 25,000 educators across the United States annually.

Recognition internationally as a center for Holocaust research and remembrance. There continues to be a dramatic growth in its collections, including more than 35,000 artifacts, 12 million pages of archival documents, 65,000 photographic images, oral histories from over 6,000 individuals, a library of over 30,000 volumes in 18 languages, and a renowned registry of Holocaust survivors and their families with a total of 165,000 listings.

Invaluable references service to the public, with the Museum's archival, photo, historian's office, and library staff responding to over 18,000 requests each year for information, guidance, and services.

These exceptional accomplishments clearly demonstrate the Museum's extraordinary adherence to public service and the success it has achieved both on the National Mall and across the United States. The passage of time continues to deepen the urgency and importance of the Museum's role in the United States and its powerful mission of carrying the legacy of Holocaust remembrance, education, and conscience forward into the 21st century. With its commitment to education and service, this Museum is key to strengthening our ability to understand history's painful lessons, to helping us overcome the worst of human impulses, and to improving our future.

As a member of the Museum's Council I am proud to introduce this legislation and I urge my colleagues to join me, and the 24 original cosponsors, in supporting the mission of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and its enduring role in our society.

THE U.S.S. "HOGA"

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce a bill which authorizes the use of a vessel to transport the naval harbor tug USS *Hoga* to Port Everglades, Florida, for use as a memorial to veterans and provide vocational seamanship training.

This bill will carry out the longstanding intent of Congress in preserving and protecting historic landmarks and national monuments. The USS *Hoga* is recognized by the United States Park Service as a national monument, and appears in the national register of historic places. Unfortunately, the USS *Hoga* is no longer seaworthy, and cannot safely be towed on the open sea. If towed through the water, it may fall apart, and we stand to lose this national monument forever. Thus, I encourage you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues here in Congress, to support this initiative that will allow a means to transport the USS *Hoga* on a transporter vessel, enabling the ship to arrive undamaged to the state of Florida.

Veterans have long been the thread holding together our nation, defining American independence, and ensuring American freedom. Despite the high concentration of World War II veterans in Florida, with the majority of them calling South Florida home, the state of Florida is the only coastal state without a commemorative World War II warship. This legislation will assist the USS *Hoga* Association in transporting the USS *Hoga* to its final resting place at the New River in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, in the next two decades, the last of the World War II veterans will have passed on. As an immobile World War II veteran, the USS *Hoga* will be a place for future generations to pay homage to those who fought bravely under the United States flag. The USS *Hoga* is indeed a national treasure, and will serve many additional uses in the state of Florida. Currently, boatyards are un-

deremployed, and fewer Americans consider a calling to defend our great country. In addition to being a memorial, the USS *Hoga* will be used to train students in seamanship duties and promote national defense by preparing young Americans for service in the United States Navy.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me say that I take a great deal of pride in the fact that South Florida boasts one of the nations highest percentage of World War II veterans. I would also like to commend the USS *Hoga* Association for the tremendous work and effort it has contributed to attain this goal. As we approach the 60 year mark commemorating the beginning of World War II, I ask that we fulfill a small request made by Florida veterans to aid them in transporting a tribute to those citizens who fought for our country.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

CONGRATULATING THOSE INVOLVED IN THE FLORENCE, WISCONSIN FOOD, FUN AND FITNESS SUMMER PROGRAM

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to offer my enthusiastic congratulations before the U.S. House to all those involved in the Florence, Food, Fun and Fitness Summer program. Their hard work and innovative efforts have improved the health of our young people and deservedly garnered accolades and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Sunshine Award for Child Development.

Everyone who is a part of the Food, Fun and Fitness program should feel a great sense of pride—not only for being honored by the USDA and others, but for genuinely enhancing the health and quality of life of our children. Thanks to this program, the kids involved have learned countless new life lessons, from a new understanding of the importance of food and where it comes from to the new friendships and wisdom they have shared with the seniors who have joined with them in this program.

This program is the direct result of a successful partnership between Florence Nutrition Program Educator Katie Tartar and the University of Wisconsin Extension, Florence School District, Florence Sheriff's Department, General Colin Powell and America's Promise, the Family Resource Center of Florence County, County Activity Co-op, Spread Eagle Sporting, the Master Gardener Association and the residents of Chapin Heights Apartments.

Mr. Speaker, the Florence Food, Fun and Fitness program is a shining example of what communities can achieve by bringing all their resources to bear in a common effort. It is a program I believe other American communities should look to and emulate.

To the folks in Florence, congratulations, thank you, and keep up the great work!

INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKER
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT**HON. CASS BALLENGER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join Senator McCONNELL and others in the introduction of "The Worker Economic Opportunity Act," a bipartisan bill to protect stock option programs for rank-and-file employees. In a February 12, 1999, opinion letter that has only recently become widely publicized, the Department of Labor determined that under the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act, at least in some case, the profits from the exercise of stock options are part of an employee's "regular rate" of pay, and therefore must be taken into account in determining the employee's overtime rate of pay.

While the opinion letter constitutes the agency's interpretation of the law based on the facts and circumstances of one particular case, the practical effect of the letter is to "red flag" other similar programs and cause widespread confusion about overtime liability among employers who provide stock options for their hourly or "nonexempt" employees.

Stock option programs can be configured in a variety of ways and are referred to by different names, but all of the programs share similar objectives: to reward employees, provide ownership in the company, and to attract and retain a motivated work force. In testimony before the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections' hearing earlier this month, witnesses discussed how stock ownership programs are now available to more and more employees. In the past, such programs were used to reward executives, top management, and other key employees. However, there has been a dramatic increase in the past several years in the number of companies offering broad-based employee ownership plans to rank and file employees.

A 1998 study by Hewitt & Associates found that over 66 percent of the companies surveyed gave options to some portion of their nonexecutive workforce. The National Center for Employee Ownership estimates that more than 6 million nonexecutives receive stock options. In the high-technology industry, some 55 percent of rank-and-file employees participate in employee ownership programs.

I daresay that few employees who receive stock options from their employer consider the profit on those options to be part of their regular rate of pay for overtime purposes. Yet the Department of Labor's interpretation of the law that says stock options may be part of the employee's "regular rate," threatens to undermine the ability and the willingness of employers to make stock options available to their "nonexempt" employees. Ms. Abigail Rosa, an employee who testified at the hearing, expressed concern that DOL's interpretation of the law would force companies to do away with stock option programs for employees who are covered by overtime.

The Worker Economic Opportunity Act would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to ensure that federal law does not end up discouraging the use of such programs or denying employee the opportunity to participate in the success of their company. The bill specifies that any value or income derived

from a stock option, stock appreciation right or employee stock purchase plan would be exempt from an employee's regular rate of pay for the purposes of calculating overtime. Plans must meet the following requirements: a minimum 6-month vesting period between the grant of the option and its exercise by the employee; any discounts on stock option or stock appreciation rights may not exceed 15 percent of fair market value at the time of the grant; the voluntary exercise of any grant or right by the employee; and disclosure of the terms of the plan to employees.

Employers may grant options based on employees' past performance, provided that the options are not pursuant to any prior contract. In addition, employers may grant options based on the future performance of any size facility, or a business unit or group consisting of at least 10 employees.

Under the bill, employers who are currently operating plans would be protected from liability for overtime back pay if: the grants or rights were obtained prior to the bill's effective date; the grants or rights were issued to employees within a year after the bill's effective date under plans that must be modified through shareholder approval; or the plans are part of a collective bargaining agreement as of the bill's effective date. Finally, the provisions of the bill would go into effect 90 days after the date of enactment, giving employers time to complete pending grants.

Mr. Speaker, this bill represents the hard work and attention of many Senators and Members of the House on both sides of the aisle, as well as the Department of Labor. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM BOB
JONES UNIVERSITY**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am somewhat bewildered by correspondence I received yesterday from Bob Jones University. As you are aware, I am the sponsor of H. Con. Res. 261, which condemns the racial and religious intolerance at Bob Jones University. Additionally, on Friday, three of my colleagues, Representatives PETER KING, RICHARD NEAL, and SAM GEJDENSON, and I sent a letter to Bob Jones III expressing our concerns about the participation of Ian Paisley in a Bible Conference at the University. Reverend Paisley is an opponent of the peace process in Northern Ireland and an outspoken anti-Catholic bigot. Since coming to Congress, I have been a vocal supporter of the Irish Peace process and the Good Friday peace process. Additionally, I have always promoted religious tolerance. In fact, I am an active participant in Project Children; a program designed to eradicate the hatred between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland by working with children.

Yesterday I received a response from Bob Jones III to my letter. I was bewildered by his venomous response. At this time, I would like to ask unanimous consent to submit to the RECORD a copy of my original letter to Bob Jones III, as well as his response.

I am disappointed that the leader of an institution of higher learning could not respectfully

respond to concerns of four Americans who happen to be Members of Congress. His labeling of the extreme religious views of Rev. Paisley as, and I quote, "leftist, radical IRA/Sinn Fein loving imaginations," is totally offensive to the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland.

I was horrified at being called a bigot and intolerant by Bob Jones the III. I have spent my life espousing peace and tolerance for Ireland and for all religious differences. I work actively with many religious groups, including Protestants, Jews, and Muslims.

Additionally, I recently marched in a St. Patrick's Day parade in Queens that was the first inclusive St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City. I believe Mr. Jones' letter reflects that he is the bigot and validates the concerns of myself and many of my colleagues.

Mr. Jones believes that I do not have the right to make demands of him. He is correct, we do have free speech. However, I believe that as an American, who happens to be a Member of Congress, I have a duty to request that the University does not invite someone whom I consider a proponent of hate to participate in any religious conference. Our country is founded on free speech, but it is also founded on religious freedom and tolerance. No institution, especially one of higher learning, should promote religious intolerance.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2000.

Mr. BOB JONES III,
President, Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC.

DEAR PRESIDENT JONES: Reports have come to our attention that over the weekend the Reverend Ian Paisley participated once again in a Bible conference at your university. We are writing to ask that you sever all professional contacts with Reverend Paisley immediately, including terminating his membership on your Board of Trustees. No American University should have a relationship with such an anti-Catholic bigot and opponent of peace in Northern Ireland.

Reverend Paisley has called the Catholic Church an instrument of the devil and "the mother of all harlots." He has described the Pope as the "Antichrist" and the "Great Fornicator." "Popery is contrary to Christ's gospel," Paisley said in one sermon. A recent biographer chronicled his lifetime commitment of "total resistance to every attempt to accept that [Catholic] system as a Christian church."

As leader of Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, Paisley has done his utmost to stir up sectarian violence between Protestants and Catholics. After serving time in prison for inciting to riot, he helped form the Ulster Protestant Volunteers paramilitary group. He has led contentious marches through Catholic neighborhoods, which are lightning rods for sectarian tension. Paisley's response to the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) statement on disarmament in 1994 was to denounce it as "a clever Jesuit expression."

In typical fashion, Paisley boycotted the peace talks led by Senator George Mitchell which produced the historic Good Friday Accord in 1998. Thankfully, his last minute attempts to sabotage the agreement failed. The comfort your university provides him jeopardizes the fragile peace in Northern Ireland that has stopped a conflict which claimed the lives of over 3,000.

Press reports indicate that Paisley has made more than 50 trips over the past 30 years to speak at your University. He should make no more.

Because of recent events in Washington and across the country, Catholics in America understandably have grown concerned about a retreat in tolerance toward all religions. Your continuing relationship with such a world renowned anti-Catholic such as Reverend Paisley only adds to that fear. The recent public uproar over your institution's restriction on inter-racial dating convinced you to alter that policy. The sense of outrage in the Irish and Catholic American communities over your continued relationship with Reverend Paisley requires you to take action on this issue as well.

Sincerely,

SAM GEJDENSON,
RICHARD E. NEAL,
PETER T. KING,
JOSEPH CROWLEY,
Members of Congress.

BOB JONES UNIVERSITY,
Greenville, SC, March 28, 2000.

Hon. JOSEPH CROWLEY,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CROWLEY: It is no business of yours whom Bob Jones University invites to speak at its Bible Conferences. This is a free country. We're just as entitled to our religious beliefs as you are to yours. The fact that we have speakers whom you personally differ with does not make us bigots.

Your bigotry and intolerance, however, have been amply displayed in your March 27 letter, which makes unwarranted and intrusive demands of us.

The fact that Dr. Paisley's religious perspective differs from yours does not make him a bigot. He feels strongly about what he believes, and so do you. Is he not just as entitled to the expression of his beliefs as you are to yours?

With regard to Dr. Paisley's religious views, he is in the line of the Protestant reformers and says nothing more or less about the system of Roman Catholicism than the Bible maintains. Revelation Chapter 17 and the historic doctrinal documents of Protestantism all state clearly the views which Dr. Paisley enunciates. He preaches no new thing. The Presbyterian Confession of Faith and the Baptist Confession of Faith confirm this. He does not hate any individual Roman Catholic, as his works and writings testify. But he does reject the papacy which has the audacity to claim that all men must submit for salvation to the Church of Rome, outside of which, they maintain, there is no salvation. Surely, such teaching needs to be condemned. He has no apology for what the Bible says about Rome in Revelation Chapter 17.

Have you lost all sense of reason and fairness? You are the elected representative to your constituents. Thankfully, I am not one of them. And thankfully, this is America, where no congressman has authority to make any demands upon the religious beliefs and choice of speakers of any church or religious instruction. This is free America, not Nazi Germany.

Have you forgotten that there is a Constitution which forbids Congress from doing the kind of thing your letter presumes to do? Have you forgotten that you swore allegiance to uphold that Constitution?

I'm appalled by your audacity. I'm frightened for the future of religious freedom in America when I see four tyrannical congressmen abuse their authority as you have done. Your contempt for religious freedom makes you a menace to America.

The Ian Paisley your letter depicts exists only in your leftist, radical IRA/Sinn Fein-loving imaginations. To know the real Ian Paisley matters not to you, and would prob-

ably spoil your fun. Even if Ian Paisley were the man you described, we would still have the perfect right to invite him here, if we were so inclined. We are not, however, the sort of place that would invite a terrorist/madman such as you have conjured up. Let me tell you something about the Ian Paisley I know, and the one you don't want to admit exists.

Ian Paisley has the largest vote of all politicians in Northern Ireland. In the election last year, he trounced by a massive 80,000 vote majority the IRA/Sinn Fein candidate whom your friend Congressman Peter King supported. How dare you say he is not a representative of the people. His vote includes many Roman Catholics. Many priests and other Roman Catholic leaders have publicly paid tribute to his diligent and totally fair representation of all his Roman Catholic constituents. In five successive European elections he has consistently topped the poll with a higher number of votes than any other member of the European Parliament. He has served in the European Parliament for twenty years. He is also a thirty-year member of the British Parliament and the leader of the third largest party in the new Northern Ireland Assembly.

Your letter states that he was imprisoned for "inciting to riot." This is utterly false. Never in all his career has he been charged with this offense, let alone been convicted and imprisoned for it. In the same paragraph, you accuse him of leading marches through Catholic neighborhoods. This is untrue.

The truth is when Mr. King attacked Dr. Paisley's party some time ago on the radio in Northern Ireland, the radio company had to pay thousands of pounds worth of damages for the lying slanders which he broadcast. Being the coward Mr. Peter King is, he escaped from appearing in court by hiding in America. Has he no shame to publicly welcome the godfathers of the bloodthirsty IRA terrorism to America, and then to launch an attack on Ian Paisley, a law-abiding, God-fearing man of noble character? This is perverse!

Bob Jones University is just as entitled to its place in the educational life of America as any other university. We stand upon the Bible, we love Jesus Christ, and we train graduates to be men and women of biblically governed character with high moral ideals and loyal to the flag. If you despise us, you despise the founding purpose and early history of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and many others.

I find your fascist demands arrogant, frightening, overreaching, and abusive. I believe the average, decent, and God-fearing American will feel the same way. I do not believe that you speak for "Irish and Catholic American communities."

Most Catholic Americans I know are fair, decent, and respectable people. They understand that Protestants and Catholics differ in theology, and they value their right to differ with us. They do not voice the kind of hatred that you voice against those of us who differ with them. They are good neighbors, good citizens, and unlike you, are freedom-loving people. They would respect our rights to have preachers of the Gospel here in line with our Christian perspective just as we respect their rights to have the pope, the cardinal, the bishop, the priest, or anybody else address them. You speak for yourselves, not for them. They would not like what you speak any more than I do.

Very truly yours,

BOB JONES III,
President.

P.S. Your statement, "The recent public uproar over your institution's restriction on

interracial dating convinced you to alter that policy," is untrue, and I want you to be assured of that.

It is untrue for two reasons. There was no "public uproar." There was only a media flap. The vast majority of the American public values religious freedom and would uphold the University's right to its own policies that govern no one but its own students who choose of their own free will to come here.

Secondly, the policy was not altered because of public pressure. It was altered because it was such an insignificant and immaterial thing to us that it was never discussed or taught here. Many generations had come and gone and didn't even know what it was. The University's greater mission and contributions were being obscured by the media's hysterical focus upon this policy. The policy was changed to show how wrong they were about its importance to us and how wrong they were about it being a symbol of racism. We're not at all like they caricatured us. Because the rule gave them a wrong impression of this school, it was incumbent upon the institution to take the initiative to give a right perspective of what it is. We're people motivated by principle, not by pressure.

SAN ANTONIO MOURNS ITS FALLEN OFFICER

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, in San Antonio, family, friends and members of the community, join in mourning the loss of Oscar Perez, a young San Antonio Police Officer cut down last week in the line of duty. As he is buried today, we all must take a moment to recount not only his story, but the story of every other law enforcement officer who daily risks life and limb to protect us.

Only 31 years old, Officer Perez expected last Friday, March 24, 2000, to be like any other, a day of hard work ending with a return home to his pregnant wife and two young children, ages 5 and sixteen months. Instead, as he was serving a warrant on a drug fugitive, he was mortally wounded by gun fire. In one instant, his 6½ year career as a San Antonio police officer came to a tragic and abrupt end.

Law enforcement officers leave the comfort and security of their homes each day to take on their duty to serve and protect. While we have worked hard to reduce crime rates, law officers continue to face real and substantial danger. As we expect them to be on their job day-in and day-out, we run the risk of taking their presence for granted. But Officer Perez, like the 41 others in the history of the San Antonio Police Department, serves as a reminder of the unique and fatal risks they all too often must bear.

Our hearts go out to his widow, two children, unborn child and other family members. Words cannot express the grief and loss they must feel. Our hope is that his children will grow up with a deep-rooted appreciation of their father's devotion and sacrifice. He lived to help others. His service to his family, community and country set an example his children can follow with pride.

H.R. 910, SAN GABRIEL BASIN
WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank both Chairman BOEHLERT and Ranking Member BORSKI of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment for their excellent work on this bill. I would also like to commend the continued bipartisan leadership of Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member OBERSTAR.

H.R. 910 does have a significant impact on my district as groundwater contamination in the San Gabriel Basin is spreading and has already begun to reach the Central Basin.

The Central Basin groundwater aquifer covers 277 square miles from Montebello to Pico Rivera and Whittier to Long Beach. And 1.5 million people depend on the Central Basin groundwater aquifer for their primary source of drinking water.

The Central Basin groundwater aquifer is contaminated by volatile organic compounds, which originated from the San Gabriel Valley and have moved over the past ten years down into the Central Basin. Several wells, which contain drinking water, have been shut down because of contamination.

The funds that will be made available through H.R. 910 will allow the Central Basin Municipal Water District to construct and operate a treatment facility that will clean up the contamination currently in the Basin. Funds allocated to the clean-up facilities in the San Gabriel Valley will help prevent further flows of contamination into the Central Basin.

H.R. 910 is an excellent example of the federal government working in partnership with local governments and private entities to facilitate the resolution of a regional problem. I urge my colleagues to vote YES on final passage of H.R. 910.

CONGRATULATING DETECTIVE
SERGEANT WARREN WILLIAMS
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
ST. LOUIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding law enforcement officer. Detective Sergeant Warren Williams will be retiring on March 31, 2000 after serving 37 years as a St. Louis Police Officer. It is an honor for me to recognize this extraordinary individual, not only for his numerous professional accomplishments, but for the great service he provided the citizens and the community of St. Louis and the State of Missouri.

Detective Sergeant Williams first joined the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department on April 1, 1963. After graduating from the St. Louis Police Academy on September 30, 1963, he began his career as a patrolman in the city's Fourth District. Mr. Williams was promoted to Sergeant on July 2, 1978. As a Police Sergeant, he served in the following as-

signments: Robbery/Burglary Section, Third District Patrol Supervisor, Bureau of Investigation, Seventh District Patrol Supervisor, Area Three Detective Bureau, North Patrol Detective Bureau, and the Internal Affairs Division.

Prior to beginning his Police career, Mr. Williams served his country as a Sergeant in the United States Army. He is a graduate of Vashon High School and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy's 135th Session. He is also the recipient of two Chiefs of Police Communications.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join his family, his colleagues, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the residents of Missouri's Second District and me, in paying tribute to the distinguished career of Sergeant Warren Williams. His record of service and leadership stands not only as an example for other law enforcement officers, but for every one of us.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
HUMANITIES HONORS PRINCE-
TON UNIVERSITY HISTORIAN
JAMES M. MCPHERSON

HON. D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Professor James M. McPherson, who last night delivered the Twenty-Ninth Annual Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities. Professor McPherson's career has combined scholarship and public service in a unique manner, and his selection as lecturer by the National Endowment of the Humanities was a well-earned and long overdue honor.

Professor McPherson is the George Henry Davis '86 Professor of American History at Princeton University, where he has taught for over three decades. He has authored a dozen books, among them the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* (1988), which is widely credited with sparking America's renewed interest in this most crucial part of our shared history.

Professor McPherson has not limited himself to academia, however. He has consistently shared his passion for the history of America with a wide and varied audience. He served as an advisor for the 1990 Ken Burns documentary "The Civil War," which was watched and enjoyed by millions of Americans.

Professor McPherson has also dedicated himself to the preservation of Civil War battlefields, serving on the boards of the Civil War Trust and the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites. He also served on the Civil War Sites Advisory Committee created by Congress in 1991. Finally, he was the president of "Protect Historic America," an organization which successfully opposed plans to construct a theme park near Manassas battlefield in Virginia.

Professor McPherson's career has been the model of an engaged intellectual, one who can speak to both a scholarly and general audience, and who has fought to ensure that others have the opportunity to experience for themselves the places which have meant so much to him. Professor McPherson is a credit to Princeton University, to Central New Jersey, and to the nation, and I hope the House will join me in wishing him continued success.

HONORING SELMA RUBIN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I bring to the attention of my colleagues an extraordinary woman, Selma Rubin who was revered by her colleagues, family, and friends on March 28 as she celebrated her 85th birthday in Santa Barbara, CA.

I feel so proud to honor my friend and colleague, Selma. The community of Santa Barbara and I are enormously fortunate she made California her home. Selma represents the true definition of what it means to be a citizen—a citizen of the world. Her sensibilities have led her to dedicate her life to championing the causes of human rights, women's rights, the environment, poverty, and peace.

Selma is on the board of over 30 local, state, and national organizations, including the Alzheimer's Association, American Civil Liberties Union, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Santa Barbara Grand Opera Association, The Sierra Club, Los Padres Chapter, and the Citizens Planning Association. These organizations represent the highest of philosophies in their purpose.

Not only does she serve tirelessly, but she possesses the charisma to inspire others to participate. Every volunteer she has recruited has become a friend. She has as many friends as she has hats. And for every hat she dons, Selma wears it with a mind full of wisdom, compassion, and nobility.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure and inspiration for me and our community to be a part of Selma's mission and we are emboldened to continue her legacy. I truly feel privileged to represent Selma Rubin in Washington.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, as we take time this month to honor the many contributions women have made in our country's history, I wish to reflect on American women's progress in school and the workplace.

When I was young, economic opportunities for women were limited. Seemingly, very few professions were open to women—teaching, secretarial work, social work, and nursing, for instance. If women chose to explore other fields, they faced significant barriers. It took great determination and a unique set of factors for a woman to break through the male-dominated preserves of medicine, law and many other professional careers.

Later, in the 1970's, female students, while likely to receive good grades, were less likely than male students to extend their education beyond high school. Not so today. Along with the increase in the number of women attending college and graduate school over the years, there has been a remarkable increase in the number of advanced degrees awarded to women. For example, in 1970, women received only 13 percent of all Ph.D. degrees; 8

percent of M.D. degrees; 5 percent of all law degrees; and a mere 1 percent of dentistry degrees. By the end of the 20th century, however, women earned an average of 40 percent of Ph.D.s; 41 percent of M.D. degrees; 44 percent of law degrees; and 36 percent of dentistry degrees.

Gains in education have advanced women significantly in the world of work. Today, women make up 46 percent of America's workforce. Women occupy almost half of all managerial and professional positions in the country, and women currently own 40 percent of America's businesses. Yet significant obstacles remain.

Unfortunately, in our country, female students still lag behind male students in their pursuit of math, science and engineering-related degrees. Today, women earn only one-seventh of all computer science doctorate degrees, and only one-eighth of all engineering degrees awarded in the United States.

Furthermore, although women are making great strides in America's corporate world, they still have not penetrated the executive arena. Currently, less than one percent of all top corporate managers are female.

Also, even though the law has dictated equal pay for men and women since 1963, women still earn only 76 percent as much as men. This means \$24 less to spend on groceries, housing, child care, and other expenses for every \$100 worth of work women do. And these figures are worse for women of color: African-American women earn only 67 cents—and Latinas only 58 cents—for every dollar earned by their male counterparts.

Various factors play a role in the wage gap between men and women. Women who leave the workforce temporarily in order to care for children or their elderly parents may suffer the consequences of a wage gap. Women are also less likely than men to join a labor union; therefore, they miss out on the benefits that come from organizing. Another factor in the gender wage gap includes the career path a person chooses. It is not uncommon for women to choose careers in the teaching and social service fields, in which salaries tend to be lower than in business or other professions.

Yet, there is more that can and should be done to level the playing field and provide fair opportunities for women in education and the workplace.

We should pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, H.R. 2397, to curb gender-based wage discrimination in the workplace. Parents should boost their daughters' self-esteem through praise and involvement in their school and extracurricular lives. Friends, teachers, and communities should encourage girls to explore non-traditional courses of study to broaden their career options.

Women's History Month reminds us to celebrate the educational and work achievements of the women in our families and our communities. We should also use this opportunity to rededicate ourselves to breaking down the remaining barriers for women in school and the workplace. We owe it to our wives, daughters, sisters, and mothers to do everything we can so that all of America's working women have equal opportunities for success.

RADIO VISION: 20 YEARS OF VALIANT SERVICE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak today in recognition of the volunteers of Radio Vision in Orange County, New York for their 20 years of devout service in my Congressional district. Radio Vision's Twentieth Annual Volunteer Recognition Day will be held on Saturday, April 8th. Radio Vision is a radio reading service for over 600 blind and visually handicapped listeners located in the Mid-Hudson region of southeastern New York. This outstanding organization informs its listeners of local events and news, which is broadcast by Radio Vision's dedicated volunteers.

Many of us take the gift of sight for granted, especially with our ability to watch television or read newspapers in order to learn of the daily worldwide events. We are incapable of knowing what it is like to be blind and have no other means of gathering information without the sense of sight. Radio Vision provides the blind residents of our Mid-Hudson region the opportunity to find out news and current events, since the means of conveying information via television and newspaper to the blind is impossible.

Over the past 20 years, more than 100 dedicated and valiant volunteers have kept Radio Vision alive for its 600 listeners. These volunteers have given their time, their hearts, and their voices to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring this program and the honorable deeds of those great people at Radio Vision to the attention of Congress and I invite my colleagues to join me in praising their continuing efforts in helping the blind.

CONGRATULATING CEASEFIRE NEW JERSEY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Ceasefire New Jersey for the important work this group has been doing to fight gun violence in our state.

The Northern New Jersey chapter of Ceasefire New Jersey presented "Hear Our Voices," an evening of choral performances by students in grades one through 12, at the Mount Hebron School in Montclair, New Jersey, last weekend. A variety of awards for essays and artwork with gun-safety and anti-violence themes will be presented to elementary school and middle school children from throughout the Montclair School District. In addition, three Montclair High School students will receive the Ceasefire New Jersey Peacekeeper Award, a scholarship in recognition of their work to end gun violence and promote peace. First-place winner Kelly McGuinness will receive a scholarship of \$1,000, while runners up Mia Elizabeth Sifford and Samuel Winful will receive \$300 each. The keynote speaker will be Donna Dees-Thomasen, organizer of the Million Mom March event to be held in Washington in May.

Ceasefire New Jersey was founded as New Jersey Citizens to Stop Gun Violence in 1988 by the Rev. Jack Johnson, a Methodist minister outraged at the use of assault weapons in shooting deaths. The North Jersey chapter was established in 1995 by Montclair gun safety activist Dorothy McGann in response to the fatal shooting of four individuals at the Watchung Plaza Post Office in Montclair that March.

In announcing the formation of the chapter, Mrs. McGann emphasized that the tragic shooting in quiet, small-town Montclair was proof that a shooting can happen anytime, anywhere. "We can't say it can't happen here," she said. Subsequent shooting deaths in the area—along with the tragic shootings in schools across our nation—have strengthened the organizations' resolve. The group regularly holds commemorative evenings to remember victims of gun violence, works with local schools to spread word of the dangers of gun violence among our young people, cooperates with police agency and lobbies Washington and Trenton legislators.

The theme that students entering this weekend's essay contest were asked to address is "Making Our Schools a Model for Peace." I can think of no better subject for young people to address today. We have seen an alarming number of children dying from gun violence in recent years. The scenario of a troubled child taking a gun to school and shooting his classmates has occurred all too often.

I applaud the work being done by Ceasefire New Jersey, both in our schools and in the community at large. All of the legislation that can be passed in Washington and the state legislatures combined cannot do as much to end gun violence as groups like this, which work at the grassroots level to change the way children think about guns. Our children are our most precious gifts and we cannot allow the tragedy of gun violence to continue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Ceasefire New Jersey for the work it has done, and in holding it up as an example that can be followed across our nation.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE WOLTERS AND STEPHEN RUSSELL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend two men in my district—Mr. Steve Wolters and Mr. Stephen Russell—who are heroes. Mr. Wolters, of Alton, Illinois, was on his mail route when he saw the home of Ms. Judith Freeman was in flames. Without hesitation, Mr. Wolters and Mr. Russell tried to gain entry into the house to rescue Ms. Freeman.

Findings the doors to the home locked, Mr. Wolters broke a window so that he and Mr. Russell could get in. Once inside the home, both men brought the unconscious Ms. Freeman to safety. Mr. Wolters then performed CPR, until the fire-fighters and paramedics arrived. After discussing the situation with the emergency team, Mr. Wolters went back to his route.

It is refreshing, Mr. Speaker, to see that the generosity of the human spirit is alive and

well. Thank you Mr. Wolters and Mr. Russell for your quick thinking and heroic actions. You both symbolize the greatness that is America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN BADGERS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the University of Wisconsin basketball team for their outstanding season which was recently gloriously culminated with their trip to the Final Four!

The Badgers capped their NCAA tournament bid with astounding victories over Fresno State, Arizona, LSU, and Purdue. This is the first time since 1941 that the Badgers have been to the Final four. Not only have they shocked the world of college basketball, but they have also illustrated that we should never count out a victory when there is an amazing combination of both talent and heart.

The Badgers have had an exceptional season which I hope is the beginning of a lasting legacy. I congratulate both Coach Bennett and the team on an outstanding start to such a fulfilling goal. These NCAA Tournament games have illustrated that they have what it takes to be successful for years to come.

The entire Badger's team along with coach Bennett won a birth to the Final Four because they have the spirit that makes every University of Wisconsin student proud to be a Badger. I commend their exemplary performance for both the University and the entire State of Wisconsin. I would like to thank them for giving us such an exciting season and congratulate them on their monumental success. Most important, I would like to wish them luck in their quest to win a National Championship. They should be assured that myself and the entire State of Wisconsin will be rooting for them this weekend.

SALUTING THE LIFE AND WORK OF MATTHEW "MACK" ROBINSON

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, my district and our nation lost a great hero. On Sunday, March 12, Matthew "Mack" Robinson died from complications associated with diabetes. Mack is a legend not just in the Pasadena area, but around the world. Mack's life is a testament to hard work and determination; he was a proud, humble, public servant who was admired by all.

Mack was born in Cairo, Georgia 88 years ago. He then moved to Pasadena at age 6. His work helped to lead Pasadena from segregation to unification. Today Pasadena is one of the most diverse communities in the nation.

Mack attended Pasadena public schools, after graduating from Muir Technical High School and attending Pasadena Junior College. He shined as an athlete; many said it ran in the family. His younger brother Jackie

was one of baseball's greatest. Mack was a record-setter in high school, and a state champion.

At Pasadena College, he competed to join another great, Jesse Owens, on the 1936 Olympic team. When the team traveled to Berlin, Mack ran in the same shoes he wore in Pasadena. He success came from raw talent, grit, and determination.

Sadly, after returning home, Mack did not encounter the open arms he found on the track in Berlin. He attended the University of Oregon, only to return home when hardship struck his family. Mack moved back to Pasadena to support his family, and began work with the city of Pasadena. Anecdotes abound of a smiling Mack proudly wearing his USA Olympic sweatshirt while he worked—often sweeping streets—in and around Pasadena.

As the New York Times reported, Mack lost his job when the city fired all black employees in a desegregation battle. While others sat idly by, Mack turned his efforts to his fellow Pasadenans. He began a lifetime of service and volunteerism in the community, never asking a penny in payment or recognition. His actions spoke louder than words.

Not long ago, the city of Pasadena saluted the contributions of Mack and his brother Jackie by erecting a monument to the two men near city hall. It is a fitting tribute to the lives of these two prominent Pasadena residents.

But Mr. Speaker an even more fitting tribute will be when my colleagues here today join me in saluting from the well of the House, the life, the work, and the legacy of Matthew Mack Robinson.

THE DEFEAT OF THE FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to briefly comment on yesterday's unfortunate vote in the Senate on the Flag Protection Amendment.

As many of my colleagues know, the Senate failed to pass the amendment by the necessary two-thirds majority, which would have sent the amendment to the States for ratification. The House had earlier passed this amendment by more than the required majority.

Following the vote, the American Legion national commander issued a profound statement expressing his organization's disappointment with the vote. I would like to include a copy of National Commander Alan G. Lance Sr's remarks for the RECORD, because I believe it summarizes the frustration felt by many of our veterans with the Senate's continued failure to approve this amendment.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 29, 2000).—After 11 years and countless resolutions and bills, letters, phone calls, meetings, rallies, and speeches, it is with deep disappointment that we stand here today and witness the defeat of Senate Joint Resolution 14, the Flag Protection Amendment.

This vote represents a quantum shift in the balance of power that makes our democracy the envy of the world. The individual flag-burner is not nearly as much of a threat

to our democracy as the belief, held by a minority of senators, that an amendment supported by 49 states and a poll-validated super-majority of the American people is somehow invalid.

What some senators fear, more than an amendment to protect the flag from acts of physical desecration, is that the American people will take control of their government. Such resistance to the will of the people will leave the people no other alternative but to convene a constitutional convention, which The American Legion would not advocate.

For 11 years, we have come to this place. We have told our stories about the Flag—how it led us into battle, how it comforted us in faraway lands, how it embraced our fallen brothers and sisters, how it marked the resting place of heroes, how it led us home with parades and pageantry, how it represents more than cloth and colors.

For 11 years, we have represented tens of millions of Americans, serving as a megaphone for a simple, sweeping, and united call to protect the Flag.

For 11 years, we have tried to break the stranglehold of a minority that has flouted the will of an entire nation, its states and their people.

Today, we have lost this battle, and I must admit that I fear we are losing much more. Could it be that "we the people" and the states are losing control of our democratic republic?

The very idea of representative democracy presupposes that elected officials follow the will of the people. Senators have told us that calls, letters, and emails poured into their offices in support of this amendment. I was even told that calls were 100 percent in favor of the amendment in some offices.

If the Senate refuses to follow the will of the people on an issue so clear-cut, so broadly supported as the Flag Protection Amendment, then is this really a republic? Is this really our government?

In the aftermath of this vote, I am not sure how to answer those questions. It is little wonder why so many people are flocking to third parties or opting out of the political process altogether.

In spite of all of this, I have not lost all hope. A new day and a new Congress await us in the not-too-distant future. And people like Senator Hatch and Senator Cleland who with many others will continue to stand with us. They have my deepest appreciation and respect for their steadfast support and brave bipartisan leadership on this issue.

Perhaps this defeat will serve as a wake-up call for America. Perhaps it will inspire us to fight harder. Perhaps it will prompt us to remind our senators—in a not-so subtle way—that they work for us, not us for them.

I refuse to believe that fighting this battle was in vain. We have learned; we have grown; we have rallied a nation. And so, we will not stand down. We will not go away.

We will not surrender. We will continue this struggle until our federal government is put back into balance, and the people's prerogative honored.

HONORING KURTH COTTAGE OF VALLEY HOSPITAL IN RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Kurth Cottage of Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, New Jersey on its 50th anniversary of

service to the hospital and surrounding community.

Kurth Cottage is the gift shop and restaurant/tea room at Valley Hospital. It once was an actual cottage, however, and the rooms it occupies in the hospital building today have been renovated to closely resemble the lovely surroundings of the original cottage.

Valley Hospital has put so much effort into what might otherwise be a simple, utilitarian facility because of extra level of comfort that warm, friendly surroundings can bring to patients' families. Family members visiting seriously ill relatives have many worries on their minds. A good meal in comforting surroundings can help ease those worries and make their outlook more optimistic. A positive outlook among family can, in turn, offer encouragement to patients themselves as they face recovery from surgery or illness.

Kurth Cottage has its origins in 1948, when the Women's Auxiliary of Valley Hospital decided that the hospital, which was still under construction, should have a "small gift shop and snack bar." Rather than include the shop and snack bar in the hospital building, a small house on the hospital grounds was chosen as its site and named for Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Kurth, major benefactors of the project. The cottage opened for business May 1, 1950, five months ahead of the opening of the hospital itself.

Kurth Cottage proved to be much more than the typical stainless steel and Formica hospital snack bar. The cottage included an 18-seat Snack Bar, a 40-seat Tea Room and a 28-seat Fireside Room, which also included the gift shop.

The Kurth Cottage facility became part of the main hospital during a 1963 expansion and the original cottage, unfortunately, was demolished to make room for a parking lot in 1963. The new facilities included a beautifully appointed, Williamsburg-influenced Tea Room, Snack Bar and Gift Shop, a new kitchen and a gracious Fireside Room incorporating many features of the original. Furnishings included Mrs. Kurth's Victorian sofa, chairs, a drop-leaf table, fireplace andirons and white birch fireplace logs. Fresh flowers in the Tea Room were donated twice weekly by local florists, as they still are today.

The cottage underwent major renovations in 1990, adding a Colonial blue color scheme to the woodwork, new wallpaper, swag draperies, new tables and chairs and handsome new flooring. The china has matching blue borders and volunteers wear matching blue smocks. A canopied walkway leads to the entrance of the facility and a new waiting area has been designed around the former Fireside Room.

Throughout its history, Kurth Cottage has always been a profitable enterprise, helping fund the many charitable activities of the Ladies Auxiliary.

None of this success would have been possible, of course, without the untiring dedication of the hundreds of volunteers who have served over the past half-century. These women have done more than simply run a "snack bar." They have made the emotional trauma of injury and illness more bearable for the families of patients at Valley Hospital for decades. They deserve our deepest gratitude for all they have done to lighten the burdens of patients and families. Most especially, we bow in deepest admiration and respect for the

many volunteers who have given of themselves, both in time and personal dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Kurth Cottage on its 50th anniversary and thanking everyone involved with its success for their hard work.

HONORING THE ILLINOIS EDUCATORS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the 2000 Golden Apple Scholar award winners from my district. The Golden Apple Scholars program is to recruit talented high school juniors who want to become teachers.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Mr. Curtis Carpenter from Centralia High School in Centralia, Illinois. Teachers, like parents, have a unique opportunity—to touch the life of a child. I can't think of a more rewarding experience.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I was a former high school teacher. I want to wish Curtis all the same joy and success that I shared in my teaching career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 2000, I missed six recorded votes because I was present at a bankruptcy trial in my community's effort to keep St. Michael Hospital and other Cleveland area hospitals from closing.

If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 80, "no" on rollcall 81, 82, "aye" on rollcall 83, 84 and "no" on rollcall 85.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness, I was unable to be present for House consideration of the following bills. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call Vote #76—H.R. 2412, a bill designating the E. Ross Adair Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #77—H. Con. Res. 292, a resolution congratulating the people of Taiwan for the successful conclusion of presidential elections on March 18, 2000 and reaffirming United States policy toward Taiwan and the People's Republic of China—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #78—H. Con. Res. 269, a resolution commending the Library of Congress and its staff for 200 years of outstanding service to the Congress and the Nation—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #79—H.R. 5, the Senior Citizen's Freedom to Work Act—as I voted the previous time the House considered it, I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #80—Approving the Day's Journal—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #81—H. Res. 450, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3908; making emergency supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2000—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #82—an amendment to H.R. 3908 to cut \$1.631 billion from several programs in the bill and to strike all references to emergency designations, making the bill subject to spending caps—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #83—an amendment to H.R. 3908 to appropriate \$4 billion in FY 2000 funds to reduce publicly-held debt—I would have voted Yea.

Roll Call Vote #84—an amendment to H.R. 3908 to cut \$552 million in Title I of the bill set aside for illegal drug interdiction and counter-drug programs—I would have voted Yea.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to be present for the vote on final passage of H.R. 3908. Had I been present I would have, albeit reluctantly, voted in favor of the bill. While I wholeheartedly endorse the provisions of Title III, I did have concerns about much of the new spending provided elsewhere in this legislation. Much of what is provided for in this bill could have been addressed through the normal appropriations process.

Title III, however, addresses the true emergency needs of many in this country, and in North Carolina particularly. Thousands of people in my home state are still struggling to overcome the impact of last fall's hurricanes. The assistance provided in this emergency appropriations bill will be critical in helping my fellow North Carolinians return to at least a semblance of the lives they led before last September's devastating floods. I am grateful to the Appropriations Committee for providing this much-needed assistance, and appreciate their hard work in bringing this legislation to the floor.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MANDELL I. GANCHROW

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a friend of mine, Dr. Mandell I. Ganchrow, who will receive the Kesser Shem Tov Award from the Orthodox Union on May 21st.

After retiring from his successful medical practice, Dr. Ganchrow has devoted himself to serving the Orthodox Union and to enhance its public image. Mandell I. Ganchrow was elected as International President of the Orthodox

Union and has served in that position for the past six years. During his term, he has created the National Conference of Synagogue Youth, which is designed to teach heritage to young American Jews. He has also improved the visibility of the Institute for Public Affairs, which incorporates programs to assist those interested in government careers or in community service.

The Orthodox Union was founded in New York State in 1898 to provide a strong base for Orthodox Jews and to stop the spread of assimilation during the turn of the century. Today it is the voice of 1,000 Synagogues and provides a number of outreach and service programs.

I first met Dr. Ganchrow during my first campaign for Congress in 1972. He raised the public's awareness in that campaign by forming the Hudson Valley Political Action Committee. He has since become a trusted and valued advisor on a significant number of issues. Dr. Ganchrow has served his country as a Viet Nam veteran. Because he is a veteran, he has become especially sensitive of the need of peace and security in the Middle East. Moreover, he was recognized by the Rockland Journal News as one of the ten most influential Rockland County Residents of the twentieth century.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join in congratulating Dr. Mandell Ganchrow on receiving the Kesser Shem Tov Award from the Orthodox Union and I am confident he will continue to be a strong voice for American Jewry.

HONORING THE OKAWVILLE ROCKETS GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the Okawville Rockets Girls basketball team who won the Class A state title. The Rockets were the number one ranked team this year. They finished the year with a 33–1 record and a 17-game winning streak.

The Rockets, who won their first state championship in 1994, became the first Southern Illinois Team to win a state title since Carlyle did it in 1997. Okawville is the sixth Class A team to win at least two state titles, joining Carlyle, Nokomis, Teutopolis, Carthage and Quincy Notre Dame.

In honor of a near-perfect season, I want to congratulate them and their head coach, Kathy Lanter on a job well done. We are all very proud of you.

The Lady Rockets are:

Head Coach—Kathy Lanter.

Assistant Coaches—Carrie Stallings and Vicki Loquasto.

Managers—Rachel Shubert, Shana Stricker and Erica Bergmann.

Players—Jamie Schrader, Kelsey Klingenberg, Kristen Lehde, Natalie Shubert, Kelly Hasheider, Joan Miller, Erica Geppert, Cheryl Borrenpohl, Jenny Heckert, Megan Brockmeier, Erica Barkau, Justine Krueger, Lauren Borrenpohl, and Katie Hasheider.

JOSEPH PATRICK MCKEOWN—
PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow Mr. Joseph P. McKeown of Beltsville, MD will retire after spending thirty years, well over half his life, in the role of public servant. Son of Joseph and Claire McKeown of Toms River, NJ, he served in the United States Navy from 1967–1971. A good deal of his Navy service was aboard ship in various locales throughout the world. After the conclusion of his service time and then his graduation from Stonehill College, Joe began a 26-year career with the United States Postal Service.

For the last two decades, Mr. McKeown has served as a Postal Inspector. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service very seldom gets the credit they deserve for the exceptional law enforcement duties they perform. Postal Inspectors have a well-deserved reputation for tough, relentless, professional investigation resulting in a 98 percent conviction rate. Seldom is there a major crime solved in this nation, at any governmental level, without the involvement of the Inspection Service at some level. Yet, you usually never see them "out front" at the successful conclusion of a case—thus their famous nickname—the "Silent Service." One of our Nation's oldest law enforcement agencies, there are now 2,200 Inspectors, 350 of whom are females.

Joe McKeown in the last 20 years has been both a model and extremely accomplished Postal Inspector. Especially knowledgeable, he has not been detailed to merely one specific investigative area. Inspector McKeown has been critical to investigations involving both external and internal crime, audits, and a variety of criminal frauds both domestic and international. For the better part of his career he has been detailed to the Newark, Baltimore, and Washington, DC regions.

Mr. Speaker, each and every day across this great country distinguished civil servants are retiring. This Congress, and the public as well, owe such exemplary citizens more than we readily recognize. I take this opportunity to publicly thank Joseph Patrick McKeown for three decades of exceptional devotion and service to our nation. May I wish Joe and his wife Ruth nothing but the best in the years ahead.

2000 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3908) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Hutchinson amendment to H.R. 3908, The Emergency Supplemental

Appropriations for FY 2000. This amendment represents a significant effort to combat the spread of methamphetamine production and trafficking across the nation.

Mr. Chairman, the timeliness of this bill cannot be overstated. The use of methamphetamines is on the rise across the nation. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, methamphetamine use remains high and there is "strong evidence to suggest this drug will continue to be a problem in west coast areas as well as other areas of the United States."

Methamphetamine, also known as crank, ice, crystal, and peanut butter, has been described as the "cocaine of the 90's" or the "poor man's cocaine." It is equivalent to heroin in the 70's or cocaine in the 80's. And its popularity is not without reason. The attractions of meth are many, including increased alertness, weight loss, a general sense of well-being, a cheap price tag, and a more intense and prolonged reaction than cocaine can offer. However, the long-term effects of the drug are equally devastating and can include severe depression, brain and liver damage, stroke, insomnia, behavior resembling paranoid schizophrenia, malnutrition, and hallucinations, among others. Crank and ice are both extremely addictive and have increasingly become the illegal drug of choice, especially for women, throughout the western United States.

Unfortunately, the dangers of meth extend far beyond those who consume the drug. As you may know, meth is made by a hazardous array of products, including ammonia gas and hydrochloric acid, which are both toxic and explosive when mixed. As a result, a meth lab can be a potential life threat to all who live near it. To make matters worse, anyone with access to the Internet can download a detailed, step-by-step meth recipe. All of the ingredients needed to make the drug are easily accessible and can be bought in the supermarket.

Although its roots are in the West coast, this epidemic has recently made its way to my home state of Texas. According to Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) statistics, there were 175 seizures of methamphetamine labs in Texas by federal, local and state authorities in 1999. This is almost three times the number of labs which were seized in 1998. The use and manufacturing of methamphetamines is becoming a serious epidemic in Texas and needs to be dealt with in a comprehensive and aggressive manner.

In order to actively address this problem, I support the Hutchinson amendment which would provide funding to assist state and local law enforcement agencies with the costs of methamphetamine lab clean-up. The DEA has been using FY 1998 and 1999 funds to assist with clandestine meth lab clean-up during this current fiscal year. However, these funds have been exhausted. The Hutchinson amendment uses \$15 million in unspent funds in the COPS program available for policing initiatives to combat methamphetamine production and trafficking. While I would prefer that the funds not be taken from the COPS program for this amendment, I am supportive of its purpose. It is time that we arm our law enforcement with funding to curb the manufacturing and trafficking of this highly destructive drug. Now is the time to aggressively attack this problem.

HONORING CHIEF HELENA ASHBY

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Helena Ashby, a distinguished member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Chief Ashby is retiring from the department after nearly 36 years of exemplary service.

On April 29, 1964, Helena Ashby was sworn in as Deputy Sheriff. Thirty-one years and several promotions later, Helena Ashby made departmental history by becoming the first female chief in 1995. Tomorrow she will retire as the highest-ranking female executive in the department.

Chief Ashby is currently head of the department's Detective Division, responsible for all specialized criminal investigation throughout the County of Los Angeles. The division consists of six individual bureaus and is staffed by 759 personnel and has an annual budget of \$64 million. The investigations completed by the Detective Division involve homicide, narcotics, vehicle theft, organized crime, arson/explosives, forgery, and computer crimes.

As a Deputy, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Commander, and Chief, Helena Ashby has been a pioneer for women in law enforcement. She is also a model officer and a leader, an example for everyone in law enforcement. I commend her for her tireless service to the public.

I congratulate Chief Ashby on her distinguished career. Her achievements are many, and the community is grateful for her service. I wish her all the best in retirement. Although she is leaving the force tomorrow, she will leave a lasting impact on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

TRIBAL CONTRACT SUPPORT COST TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS OF 2000

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to make technical amendments to the contract support cost provisions of the Indian Self-Determination Act. These amendments are long overdue, and will finally keep faith with the hundreds of tribes and tribal organizations across the country that so ably carry out the Federal Government's health care and social service programs.

One quarter of a century ago Congress firmly launched the Nation into the Indian Self-Determination era by enacting the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975. One goal of the Act was to break the cycle of paternalism and despair in our Native American communities. A second goal of the Act was to foster self-reliance and independence. And a third goal was to begin dismantling part of our highly inefficient and distant Federal bureaucracy, by turning over the daily operation of Native American programs from the Federal Government to the tribes and tribal organizations themselves.

Twenty-five years later the Indian Self-Determination Act experiment has proven to be a resounding success. All across the country American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and tribal organizations are administering contracts to operate the Federal Government's hospitals, clinics, law enforcement programs, social welfare programs, education programs and a raft of other initiatives serving some of the neediest people in our Nation. And they are doing this with greater efficiency and more services than we here in Washington could ever do it.

In my great State of Alaska, the Alaska Native people have been at the forefront of this effort, leading the country's Native American communities in the administration of Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service programs. Over one-quarter of all IHS programs currently under Native American operation are operated by Alaska Native tribal organizations, who administer over \$200 million annually in desperately needed health care programs serving remote villages, many in the midst of Third-World conditions. Likewise, Alaska Native tribal organizations operate the entire BIA system on their own. No other area of the country is as advanced in these respects.

Despite its successes, the policy of self-determination has been consistently plagued by problems, with the most severe being the failure of the IHS and the BIA to fully pay contract support costs associated with carrying out these Federal Government programs under duly-executed contracts. This failure has amounted to a cruel hoax on the Native American people being served under these contracts.

Let me explain.

Mr. Speaker, the programs that have been turned over to Alaska Native and American Indian operation have from the beginning been severely underfunded. A recent study by the Indian Health Service shows that IHS programs, which are currently funded at roughly \$2 billion, are still \$13 billion short of meeting the health care needs of Indian and Alaska Native people. BIA funding is not much better. The tribal contractors therefore know that when they enter into a contract to operate a federal program locally, they will only be receiving a meager amount to meet the overwhelming needs of their communities. But what has made the situation much worse for these courageous tribal contractors, is that the agencies have forced the contractors to absorb the administrative costs of operating the Federal Government's own programs. The net effect is that there is even less available in these woefully underfunded programs to meet local needs.

Mr. Speaker, this should not be. In any other area where the Federal Government negotiates contracts with the private sector, the Federal Government fully pays the contractor's audited general and administrative overhead costs. Indeed if the government fails to pay, it can be held liable in a court of law. But somehow when it comes to Native American contractors, the Government thinks it's alright to change the rules, to break the contract, and to deny any liability regardless of the impact on the local people being served. Tribal contractors are made to be second-class contractors. Mr. Speaker, this is not right, and the bill I introduce today will put an end to this practice.

In addition, the bill will overcome a number of the more technical problems that have

plagued this system. Just one example will make this clear.

Most Native American contractors administering IHS and BIA programs run a wide range of other federal programs too. For most tribes, the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General determines a reasonable and necessary administrative overhead rate required to carry out all these programs, using strict guidelines issued by the Office of Management and Budget. Under the controlling OMB circulars, each federal agency entering into contracts or grants with that tribal contractor is then required to abide by the government-wide indirect cost rate set by the OIG.

This system would be fair to the Federal Government, fair to all of the funding agencies, and most importantly fair to the tribal contractors themselves, if everybody played by the OMB Circular rules. But many federal agencies do not. They either ignore the government-wide rate that has been determined by the Inspector General, or they recognize only a fraction of the rate. Once again, the Native American contractors are left holding the bag. In 1998, a ten-year-old class action lawsuit against the Federal Government was eventually settled for over \$70 million over this failure alone. The bill I introduce today assures that no such liabilities will ever recur in the future.

Further, this bill will clarify the rules governing the expenditure of contract funds; initiate a new measure to maximize efficiency in tribal program operations, improve Federal administration of the Act; clarify the rules governing the computation of contract support costs; provide the Federal agencies more time to plan for the transfer of Federal programs to tribal operation; and strengthen the Act's enforcement measures.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years I and many of my colleagues have worked very hard to correct the inequities in the contract support cost system. We have done this because that system is integral to the success of our country's overall Indian Self-Determination Policy. I believe firmly in reducing the size of the Federal bureaucracy. I believe firmly in maximizing local control. I believe firmly in the sanctity of our Government's private contracts with Indian and Alaska Native contractors. And I believe firmly that the Nation's Indian Self-Determination Policy must be corrected so that there is no longer an unfunded mandate that is paid for out of the very same trust programs that serve the neediest of the needs of our First Americans. I therefore urge that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle join me in seeing that this important legislation is enacted as swiftly as possible.

FLOOR STATEMENT FOR TRIBAL CONTRACT SUPPORT COSTS TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS OF 2000

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague Congressman DON YOUNG, Chairman of the Resources Committee, is introducing the "Tribal Contract Support Costs Technical Amendments of 2000." I am proud

to be an original cosponsor of this legislation which would make technical amendments to the contract support costs provisions of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

Over the past two years, the House Resources Committee has focused substantial attention on the problems associated with ongoing shortfalls in payments to tribes for contract support costs. The committee has not taken on this task without assistance. The National Congress of American Indians, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Indian Health Service (IHS), and many tribes have reviewed the matter and have assisted in developing a long-term solution.

In 1975, Congress firmly launched the nation on a course of Indian self-determination by enacting the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. An important goal was to begin dismantling part of our highly inefficient federal bureaucracy by turning over the daily operation of Native American programs to the tribes and tribal organizations.

Twenty-five years later this Act has proven to be a resounding success. All across the country, tribes and tribal organizations are administering contracts to operate the federal government's hospitals, clinics, and many other programs.

Despite its successes, the policy of self-determination has been consistently plagued by problems, with the most severe being the failure of the IHS and BIA to fully pay contract support costs associated with carrying out these federal government programs under duly-executed contracts.

A recent study by the IHS shows that IHS programs, which are currently funded at roughly \$2 billion, are still \$13 billion short of meeting the health care needs of Indian and Alaska Native people. BIA funding is not much better. The net effect is that there is even less available in these woefully underfunded programs to meet local needs. This is not right.

The "Tribal Contract Support Costs Technical Amendments of 2000" will clarify the rules governing the expenditure of contract funds, initiate a new measure to maximize efficiency in tribal program operations, improve federal administration of the Act; clarify the rules governing the computation of contract support costs; provide federal agencies more time to plan for the transfer of federal programs to tribal operation; and strengthen the Act's enforcement measures.

I urge swift consideration of this proposal to ensure that Congress' support for Indian self-determination continues.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES TO PROTECT AND INVEST IN OUR NATION'S STUDENTS (EDUCATION OPTIONS)

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Education OPTIONS Act, the last component of the House's reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The Education OPTIONS (Opportunities to Protect and Invest in Our Nation's

Students) bill would allow states and local school districts unprecedented authority to transfer federal funds among programs to better meet their needs.

This bill makes significant improvements in the remaining programs in ESEA, streamlines programs, reduces bureaucracy, and increases dollars going to the classroom. We continue our focus on quality, as well as local and parental empowerment.

Education OPTIONS includes a provision to allow States and local school districts to transfer Federal funds among major programs in order to better meet their unique circumstances, including targeting students with the greatest academic needs.

I continue to believe that state and local educational agencies, along with parents, are in a better position than we are in Washington to determine how best to use federal funds to help students improve their academic achievement. Education OPTIONS puts the priority on children rather than federal regulations.

The legislation includes programs for violence and drug abuse prevention, technology in the classroom, charter schools, and a number of other smaller authorizations. ESEA governs the bulk of the federal government's involvement in elementary and secondary education. Once this bill is completed the House will have completed the ESEA reauthorization process that we began last year with the following components: Education Flexibility Partnership Act (signed into law as P.L. 106-25); Teacher Empowerment Act, H.R. 1995 (passed the House); Student Results Act, H.R. 2 (passed the House); Academic Achievement for All Act, H.R. 2300 (passed the House); LIFT (Literacy Involves Families Together), H.R. 3222, and Impact Aid, H.R. 3616, were approved last month in committee and are awaiting consideration by the full House.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING CAPTAIN JOSEPH AVVEDUTI, CMDR., U.S.S. "KALAMAZOO"

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to come today before this House and the American people to formally thank and honor a true American hero, Capt. Joseph Avveduti, for his great and long service to our nation.

Captain Avveduti served as commander of the U.S.S. *Kalamazoo* from September 1995 to August 1996, and will be retiring from the U.S. Navy in July of this year. His retirement will not only be a great loss to our Armed Forces, but our nation as a whole.

Joseph Avveduti first came to my attention as commander of the U.S.S. *Kalamazoo*, a vessel whose namesake is Kalamazoo, MI, a city in my district. Like the residents of Kalamazoo, Captain Avveduti represents the best America has to offer.

In reviewing his distinguished service record, Captain Avveduti's dedication to his country is immediately evident. Throughout his many years of meritorious service to our country, he has been awarded the Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Air

Medal and the prestigious Legion of Merit in addition to service and campaign medals too numerous to name here.

Captain Avveduti should be embraced as a shining example for many young men and women who are entering our Armed Forces today. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1974, he was designated a naval aviator and served his initial aviation tour with the helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron in Jacksonville, FL.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Joseph Avveduti has not only spoken of dedication and service to our nation throughout his career—he's lived it. Between 1983 and 1985 while serving as the assistant air officer of the U.S.S. *Guam*, Joseph Avveduti saw combat in Grenada and in Beirut, Lebanon. Just a few years later, Captain Avveduti was once again called to arms to defend democracy during Operation Desert Storm. During this conflict, by all accounts, Captain Avveduti served valiantly aboard the U.S.S. *Saratoga* in the Red Sea as part of the team that successfully defeated Saddam Hussein and restored freedom to the people of Kuwait.

After returning to the United States, in 1997 Captain Avveduti graduated from the National War College here in Washington, DC, and, in his tradition of continuing dedication, he currently holds the Chief of Naval Operations Chair at that institution.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I speak for every Member of this Congress and a grateful nation when I extend to Captain Avveduti, his wife Carol, and his sons Joseph and David, our best wishes for a happy, healthy, and productive retirement. Because I am humbled by his dedication and achievements, I ask your indulgence in making these remarks part of the permanent record of the Congress so that all Americans, now and in the future, can read and reflect on the honor, distinguished service and achievements of a great American—Capt. Joseph Avveduti.

VALLEY GRANGE HONORED ON 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Valley Grange 1184 of Danville, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its charter. Valley Grange was chartered April 2, 1900, and has been continuously active since that date.

The Grange is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life through educational, social and legislative activities; promoting family life through family-oriented activities; advancing the cause of agriculture; developing rural leadership; and acting as a spokesman in public affairs.

From its founding, the Grange has been in the forefront of the fight to secure fair treatment and better conditions for farm and rural citizens. From securing rural free mail delivery to rural electrification, to fair prices for farm products to local tax reform, the Grange has been there for its citizens, "preserving the traditions of yesterday and ensuring the hope for tomorrow," as its current slogan proclaims.

The Grange deserves much credit for preserving the very traditions that have made

America a strong and caring country—traditions such as legislative action, family values, citizenship, stewardship and community service.

Exemplifying commitment to those traditions are ten members of the Grange in Danville who will be honored for their many years of continuous membership when Valley Grange celebrates its 100-year milestone with a dinner at the Grange Hall on April 3.

I am pleased to join their fellow Valley Grange members in honoring the following people, who will be presented with certificates and pins for their dedication: Hazel Savage, 75 years; Sarah Kreisher and Clyde and Ruth Krum, 70 years; Lansford Steininger, 60 years; Robert George, 55 years; and James and Lois Hagenbuch, Dorothy Keefer and Minor Leighow, 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is people like these ten members of Valley Grange who help to keep rural America strong, and I am proud to wish them and their fellow members a happy 100th anniversary.

2000 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3908) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I applaud the House's adoption of the amendment to H.R. 3908, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, offered by my colleague, the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. HUTCHINSON.

My District is currently struggling with an explosion in the use, distribution, and production of methamphetamine. The number of methamphetamine incidents in the First District of Kentucky is estimated to be one of the highest in the country.

The outbreak of clandestine meth labs is creating a tremendous burden of local law enforcement agencies, especially in rural areas with small police departments. Methamphetamine investigations are time consuming and require unique techniques and specialized equipment. Law enforcement officers in making a meth bust cannot simply arrest the suspect or suspects; they must be certified to dispose of these volatile and hazardous chemicals.

This amendment will reallocate much needed funding to DEA for cleanup of hazardous materials at clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. The funds available to DEA for lab cleanups were recently exhausted.

Western Kentucky was fortunate enough to receive a \$1 million earmark for methamphetamine eradication and cleanup. However, we could still experience a funding shortfall based on statistics provided to me by DEA. During Fiscal Year 1999, there were 58 meth lab cleanups in the State of Kentucky; 50 were in my District. During the first quarter of this year, there were 25 meth lab cleanups in Kentucky and 20 were in my District.

This is a serious problem we can't ignore.

GRANTING CHINA PERMANENT
NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS
(PNTR)

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, a great nation has to stand on its principles. If it fails to do so, it is diminished. The Cold War and our policy toward South Africa are just two examples of policy based upon our nation's bedrock principles. Such an opportunity will apparently present itself this year with the anticipated vote in Congress on granting permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with China.

After months of studying the issues; after dozens of meetings with various groups and individuals on both sides of the issue, such as the Chinese Ambassador to the United States, business leaders from Montgomery County, human rights activists and labor leaders; I have decided to oppose granting PNTR to China at this time.

Fair trade and economic growth in this new economy are very important to me, but not at the expense of the principles for which this country stands.

I remain committed to free and fair trade. I cosponsored and voted for the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act in both the International Relations Committee and on the floor of the House, and I hope to vote for it again when it is reported out of conference committee. I also cosponsored another free trade measure for Africa called the "Hope for Africa Act." Last year, I supported granting a one-year extension of normal trade relations (NTR) with China. I support a comprehensive engagement with China that includes free and fair trade, but only after China has demonstrated a willingness to become a responsible member of the world community.

By granting China PNTR, we surrender the only effective economic and political tool to effect positive change in China—the annual vote to renew NTR. Without this, China has little reason to improve its actions and image in the world community.

There have been too many broken promises by the Chinese government. There are too many protesters in prison. There are too many religious persecutions. There are too many military threats.

China's record on human and workers' rights continues to be abominable. Take for instance the story of Liu Baiqiang. While serving a 10-year sentence for theft, Baiqiang, in support of the 1989 pro-democracy movement, wrote messages calling for freedom and the end of tyranny on scraps of paper and released them into the air attached to the legs of locusts. For this he was sentenced to an additional eight years in prison.

The leadership in China continue to threaten Taiwan, even at a time when we are considering PNTR, just because Taiwan practices democracy. China continues to develop and contribute to the proliferation of missile and nuclear technology, exporting it to rogue nations around the world. China continues to violate environmental standards for development and industry, ignores fair labor standards and

safe working conditions and uses child, low wage and even slave labor to produce many goods for export.

Finally, China has yet to live up to any of the previous trade agreements it has signed with the United States. I am not convinced that China will be any more likely to change this behavior once it is granted PNTR status.

I firmly support a renegotiation of the terms of the U.S.-China bilateral treaty that would provide greater safeguards against Chinese abuses and outlaw behavior. I have participated in two working groups established by Members of Congress that are striving to identify the issues that should be renegotiated and ways to initiate the renegotiation.

A treaty that provides a free and fair trade agreement with safeguards that could better guarantee appropriate Chinese behavior in the world community would receive my full support.

Granting China PNTR now might be economically rewarding, but it would be morally bankrupting.

NATIONAL WESTERN AGRICULTURE FORUM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, prior to the start of the second session of this 106th Congress I held a widely attended agriculture forum at the 94th Annual National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado. The forum featured twelve experts who presented their views on three of the most challenging issues facing agriculture—biotechnology, international trade and federal farm policies.

I will now summarize the remarks of the panelists and commend to our colleagues the opinions shared at the Colorado forum.

The first panel addressed biotechnology. Mr. Roger Bill Mitchell, President of the Colorado Farm Bureau, began by addressing the overriding concern of the biotechnology panel; consumer awareness. "Consumer acceptance is the key to biotechnology's success. Currently, the public is misled by propaganda . . . if the benefits of biotech were put forth then the public would support the technology," he said. "It is up to the farmer and rancher—us—to market biotech products and to educate the public. We have to respond to the markets. Even when the consumer is wrong, he's right."

Dr. Cecil Stushnoff, Director of Horticulture at Colorado State University said the term "genetic engineering" evokes suspicion and fear. "A gap of knowledge generates fear of the unknown. The public should be informed that biotechnology could help in stopping viruses, killing insects, serving as vaccines, and preventing disease," he said.

Dr. Stushnoff said the public should also be advised of the risks to human health and to the environment. "The only way to ensure public support is to assess each product on a case-by-case basis. More research in this field is needed to answer consumer questions. Biotechnology has enormous potential." Dr. Stushnoff also warned of foreign nations that, as a matter of national policy, have promoted campaigns of hysteria regarding genetically

modified organisms (GMOs). Here again, it seems education is the key.

Mr. James Geist, Executive Director of the Colorado Corn Growers, said genetic modification is an age-old practice which has traditionally been limited by a lack of technology. "Modern technology helps to determine accuracy of genetic modification," he said. "The media has embraced the topic to get 'shock appeal' and have blown out of proportion the realities of biotechnology. The current hysteria is not reasonable and could be curbed by informing consumers about the truth, reality and functionality of genetically modified goods." Mr. Geist also emphasized GMOs as a viable solution to meeting the growing demand for food. "With the current population growth, we must use GMOs."

Mr. Jim Rubingh, Director of Markets for the Colorado Department of Agriculture continued with Mr. Geist's concerns about global population. "By the year 2050 the human population will have to produce as much food as the world has produced in the last 12,000 years. Biotechnology allows for inexpensive, nutritious, and plentiful food production. Although there are risks, biotechnology can also save lives." Mr. Rubingh believes a unified, regulatory system needs to be established by Congress to ensure genetic varieties are not abused.

Mr. Speaker, our second panel addressed trade. Mr. Tim Larsen, an International Marketing Specialist with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, provided examples of how the agriculture industry is suffering. "The U.S. farmers are doing a good job. They are just not getting the global price they deserve." Mr. Larsen went on to say, "The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has proved good in Colorado. From agricultural entities, only 19 trade claims, nationwide, have been filed against NAFTA, none have been filed from Colorado. However, Colorado does need a level playing field to compete globally."

Dr. Alan Foutz, Vice-President of the Colorado Farm Bureau, said the problem is a lack of export markets to sell our excess products. "America should not abandon NAFTA and GATT," he said. "The U.S. government must address the crisis facing agriculture imposed by high tariffs and other trade barriers. It is essential for the administration to work with foreign governments to open up markets. Future trade relationships with China are important, simply because China is a larger market. We must sell our surplus to foreign markets," he said. Reauthorizing Fast Track is important. He urged Congress to avoid adding environmental and labor riders on the reauthorization bill.

Dr. Foutz also reminded Congress that regulatory expenses are also barriers to trade. "I don't want the government to bail me out. Allow me to sell to foreign markets easier than it is today."

Mr. Larry Palser, President of the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee, said farmers need Congressional help to compete with other countries. "More markets must open and sanctions must be removed," he said. Mr. Palser urged Congress to phase out export trade subsidies, but should not reduce tariffs until the other country in question complies with terms of fair trade. "America lost \$7 billion to sanctions," Palser stated.

The Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee supports Most Favored Nation Trade

Status for China. "The European Union must be forced to reduce export subsidies," he said. Mr. Palser's remarks are hereby submitted for the RECORD.

STATEMENT BY LARRY PALSER, PRESIDENT, COLORADO WHEAT ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, TO FORUM ON AGRICULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss some of the important trade issues that are vital to the economic stability of Colorado wheat producers. As you know, Colorado is a major producer of wheat and a large exporter. When we are unable to trade wheat overseas the economy of Colorado is hurt.

We know that worldwide demand for high quality wheat is increasing, but competition is also increasing. For Colorado wheat producers to successfully compete for sales around the world we need your help and the help of all of your colleagues in Congress. Colorado wheat producers can compete with any other farmers, but we cannot succeed in a world market place where we are forced to compete against foreign governments. There are a number of issues that I wish to call to your attention that need to be addressed for Colorado wheat producers to successfully compete in the export market in the new millennium.

Continuing to open export markets by expanding and improving our trade agreements is essential. The recent World Trade Ministerial in Seattle was to have set the agenda for continuing to strengthen member countries commitments to opening world markets and to begin the work on renegotiating the agricultural agreement. While we are very disappointed at the lack of a positive outcome in Seattle, our trading partners must be held to the agreement to move forward with the agriculture negotiations as agreed to in the built-in-agenda of the Uruguay Round.

The new round of negotiations of the WTO will be one of the best avenues to achieve meaningful reforms. The new round of negotiations must move forward as soon as possible. A broad set of wheat industry concerns was developed as a set of recommendations for our negotiators and others involved in the WTO negotiations.

I would like to share with you the following key WTO issues for wheat: the elimination of all direct export subsidies within three years; elimination of monopolistic state trading enterprises to provide discipline to price discriminating practices, which distort world markets; the elimination of inequities that persist between the U.S. levels of domestic support and those of our competitors; and expansion of market access (U.S. agricultural tariffs should not be further reduced until such time as other countries make significant tariff reductions and tariff peak disciplines).

Sanctions reform is a priority legislative issue. A lot of very good work has been done on sanctions reform over the past several years. On November 17, 1999, a letter with 220 signatures of your House colleagues was delivered to Speaker Hastert asking for "meaningful reform of food and medicine sanctions policy in the 106th Congress." The letter gave three reasons why Congress should act to end these sanctions. They are: (#1) Unilateral food and medicine sanctions do not work because our allies freely supply the same products to sanctioned states; (#2) Denying access to food and medicine is an abhorrent foreign policy tool; and (#3) Unilateral sanctions punish American farmers and depress American commodity prices by denying access to significant international markets.

We in the Colorado wheat industry are in full agreement with your colleagues on these reasons. Sanctioned markets currently buy

\$7 billion of agriculture commodities each year from our competitors. USDA estimates that rural communities lose \$1.2 billion in economic activity annually because of unilateral sanctions. I ask you on behalf of all wheat growers to make removal of these sanctions a prime objective when you go back to Washington, D.C. in a few days.

Permanent Normal Trade Relations (NTR) for China is another priority issue. The bilateral agreement that China signed in April of 1999 is fully implementable. The next step is for China to begin to purchase wheat. This is a very important agreement because it resolves the phytosanitary argument that impeded U.S. wheat sales to China for years. China has now agreed that there is no threat from TCK.

The really big issue facing China is entrance into the WTO and Congressional approval of permanent NTR. This is necessary if the U.S. is to achieve the benefits negotiated in the U.S.-China WTO agreement. Without permanent NTR, China is not bound to comply with the agreement. Other members of the WTO will be in a position to gain by reduced tariffs and other market protections negotiated for WTO membership and the U.S. producer will be the loser in this huge and growing market.

Trigger mechanism legislation is also a priority. The U.S. wheat industry has worked with Senator Baucus on a bill that would require the Secretary of Agriculture to take action if the European Union (EU) does not reduce and subsequently eliminate agricultural export subsidies. This legislation would require increased funding for the Export Enhancement Program (EEP), the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program and the Market Access Program (MAP). These programs are all important to U.S. agriculture's competitiveness in the world market place. S. 1651 is called trigger legislation as it would be triggered if the EU fails to lower its subsidies. I respectfully ask you to work with us to introduce similar legislation in the House.

There has also been talk of rejuvenating EEP, however, this does not appear likely in the near term. Each year any unused allocated EEP funds are lost from USDA's budget. A bill was introduced at the end of Congress by Senator Patty Murray of Washington State that would provide authority to the Secretary of Agriculture under certain conditions to use unexpended EEP funds for FMD and MAP. The Murray bill authorized MAP at \$200 million, while making the current \$90 million level a minimum rather than a maximum amount. It also establishes the FMD program at a minimum of \$35 million annually. We believe this is an important bill needed to capture these much needed funds in programs we know are successful.

Congressman Schaffer, these are a few of the trade issues that are important to the wheat industry that we ask for your support and help with. The Colorado wheat industry looks forward to working with you.

Mr. Vernon Sharp, President of the Colorado Cattleman's Association agreed with Mr. Palser. "We must increase access to international markets, eliminate unfair trade policies and reemphasize domestic trade policies through country-of-origin statutes and mandatory price reports. Stop using agriculture products as a bargaining chip," Sharp said. "Trade barriers must be based on scientific research. We can't allow ourselves to become dependent on a foreign food supply like we are on oil," he said.

Our final panel, Mr. Speaker, addressed federal farm policies. Mr. Peter Sperry, Budget Policy Analyst with The Heritage Foundation, states that one cannot plan strategy around changing government policies. "Government policy is misdirected and

fails to hit the targeted goal." Mr. Sperry asked, "Should the federal government be in agriculture at all?" He continued by emphasizing the enormous price tag for federal farm programs.

"The cyclical nature of the cattle industry makes it difficult for the federal government to maintain a fair support program. Let people keep the money they make.

"Farmers have difficulty planning rational policy in the face of federal meddling. The federal government should get out of agriculture. Be careful what you ask for, because you just might get it. If the agriculture community says 'stay with subsidies,' that's what we'll get.

State Conservationist, Steve Black, countered saying there was a definite role for the government. "Government can provide agriculture assistance. The best assistance is generated from voluntary incentive-based programs such as conservation on private lands, abundant food, clean water, decreased greenhouse gasses, wildlife habitat, open space and wetlands habitat," he said. "Seventy percent of land is managed by private farms and ranches. Good national resource management is important." Black said 88% of the nation's water runs off from private land.

"Farmers do a better job of preventing wind erosion and promoting carbon sequestration and wetlands preservation. When public money goes into agriculture, it's well spent."

Mr. Lynn Shook, a state board member of the Colorado Farm Bureau brought the discussion back to less federal involvement. "Federal farm subsidies shouldn't be allowed. The farmer should get a fair price first. The 1996 Farm Bill had too many regulations," he said. "Farmers need help to increase trade markets." Mr. Shook went on to say farming is risky. "The U.S. government needs to provide a real crop insurance program," he said. Mr. Shook's full testimony follows.

STATEMENT ON FARM POLICY—LYNN SHOOK

My name is Lynn Shook. I grow wheat and sunflowers near Akron, Colorado. I am a member of the Colorado Farm Bureau Board of Directors. I would like to thank Rep. Schaffer for the opportunity to discuss future farm policy. I would also like to thank him for representing farmers and ranchers like myself in Washington, D.C. In order to fully discuss current and future farm policy I think it is important to look back on how the current farm bill was created and passed.

The "Freedom to Farm" concept embodied in the 1996 farm bill has come under much criticism as the cause of the current economic problems in agriculture. People seem to have lost perspective on what the 1996 bill did and did not do and the circumstances surrounding passage of the legislation.

By 1995, producers had become increasingly disenchanted with the acreage controls and the lack of planting flexibility that had evolved out of the 1977, 1981, 1985 and 1990 farm bills.

Planted acreage was restricted most years with acreage reduction programs (ARPs) while the rest of the world kept planting more acres. Base acreages had been locked in for most crops since 1985. The world was changing, but U.S. agriculture was locked into past planting patterns.

After the experience of the early and mid 1980s, producers were also well aware that we could not use the farmer-owned grain reserve to store our way to prosperity. The reserve was restricted in size and price influence in the 1990 farm bill, and elimination seemed to be the next logical step in 1995.

While these changes were going on with agriculture, a new farm bill was also faced with

substantial federal budget pressures. As the farm bill debate began in 1995, President Clinton's budget proposal for fiscal year 1996, the budget year beginning on October 1, 1995, showed yearly budget deficits at \$200 billion for the next five years. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the budget estimating arm of Congress, had a similar forecast.

The federal budget deficit had been a political issue for 20 years. The new Republican controlled Congress was determined to bring the issue to a head and resolve it. As 1995 progressed, President Clinton began overtures to the Republicans to find a budget compromise that would lead to a balanced budget.

The Republicans and the President were also talking about regulatory reform, tax relief and foreign market development, all issues important to farmers and ranchers.

Given producer concerns about planting flexibility, stocks, policies and the political winds of balanced budget efforts and other policy changes, a status quo policy based on extension of the 1990 farm bill became less and less achievable as the 1995 farm bill debate dragged into late 1995 and into 1996.

The Republicans in Congress promised that regulatory, tax and market development changes would be forthcoming, but a farm bill had to be passed to fit within a budget deal that was on a fast track for action in 1996.

Budget pressures on a farm bill were nothing new. The 1990 farm bill was passed and then immediately changed by the 1990 budget deal to fit within its budget restraints.

Agriculture was faced with a choice between greater program flexibility and fixed payment rates, agricultural market transition assistance (AMTA) payments, or trying to swim against the budget policy stream and less program flexibility.

The 1996 farm bill has also been criticized for lower loan rates for the major crops. That did not happen. Loan rates began moving down in 1986 with the implementation of the 1985 farm bill. That was continued in the 1990 farm bill. The 1996 farm bill did not mandate lower loan rates. It gave the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to lower loan rates. It did put in place loan caps to prevent the Secretary from raising loan rates.

Farmers and ranchers accepted the changes in farm policy, but Congress and the President did not deliver on regulatory reform, tax relief and market development. The regulatory burden on farmers and ranchers has gone up, not down. From the FQPA to wetlands to labor regulations, farmers and ranchers are more heavily regulated than ever before.

Farmers and ranchers received some tax relief in 1997 and 1998, but it was minor compared to the total impact of estate taxes and capital gains taxes.

Farmers and ranchers have received virtually no help on trade issues. Congress and the Administration have not delivered on trade negotiating authority, have not increased funding for USDA market development programs and have not worked out problems with existing trade agreements. Only recently has the Administration begun dealing with trade issues with Canada and removing trade sanctions with major potential trading partners like Iran.

The recently announced Farm Bureau AgRecovery plan outlines what we believe needs to be done in the short run and lays out where farm program policy must focus in the long run.

First, direct federal assistance will continue to be needed in the short and intermediate terms. We will not dig out of the current hole in a year or two.

Second, development of markets at home and abroad must be a high priority. Farmers

and ranchers must be able to produce and sell. Direct federal assistance can help in the short run, but we must produce for markets to be profitable in the long run.

Third, agricultural production is a high-risk business. Crop insurance reform has been a constant refrain throughout the 1990s. The 1994 reforms were supposed to be the mother of all reforms. We tinkered again in 1998 and are now making further changes in 1999 to take effect for 2000 to 2004.

To effectively deal with risk management, we must focus more on risk management and less on just crop insurance. Risk management education is also important.

Farm and ranch risk management accounts (FARRM) supported by Farm Bureau is a step toward alternative ways of managing risks.

Revenue insurance may be a way to cover both crops and livestock. This may also be an approach to help producers without impacting land prices.

Fourth, Congress and the Administration must finally face up to the regulatory straight jacket they have placed on agriculture. Politicians love to talk about prices and what they believe they can do to increase prices. They hate to talk about the cost of government regulations.

U.S. farmers and ranchers operate in a global food economy. Every regulatory cost impacts their ability to compete. Farm Bureau has called for a regulatory impact payment of \$5 billion per year as the first step in shifting the cost of the regulatory process run amok back to Congress and the President.

The AgRecovery plan does not address the issue of counter-cyclical income assistance. This idea has been given increased attention in the last few months and needs further attention as an intermediate and long-term policy direction. AMTA payments under freedom to farm are fixed payment regardless of income. The target price system focused exclusively on price and did not take into consideration the interaction between prices and production.

A program for counter-cyclical income assistance may be a complement to a more effective risk management program to help buffer against production and price risks.

New opportunities in conservation programs, including water quality, should also be explored.

The AgRecovery plan also speaks volumes about what we don't want in future farm program policy. We do not want to lose the planting flexibility provided by the 1996 legislation. We do not want increases in price supports that would make us non-competitive in world markets. We do not want to further build carryover supplies by recreating the farmer-owned reserve. We do not want to cut acreage to qualify for farm program participation. That would reduce the net benefit of the programs and encourage producers in other countries to increase output.

We must learn from the good and the bad of the last 20 years of farm program policy and build for a brighter future.

The President of the Colorado Association of Wheat Growers, Dusty Tallman, indicated the farm crisis is not going away. He said Freedom to Farm was good, but had some minor problems. "The Endangered Species Act has helped to create the farm crisis," he said. "The farm crisis is not going away. We need to work to improve farm programs, reform taxes, cut regulation and reform the Loan Deficiency Program." Mr. Tallman also submitted his testimony in writing which I now submit to the RECORD.

STATEMENT BY DUSTY TALLMAN, PRESIDENT,
COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS
TO FORUM ON AGRICULTURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

On behalf of Colorado's wheat growers I wish to thank you for your continued support—in good times as well as bad. We especially appreciate your leadership and commitment.

While it may sound like a broken record, the farm crisis continues to impact the lives of wheat growers every day. USDA figures show that Colorado wheat prices are averaging only \$2.20 per bushel so far this marketing year. Wheat prices are now at 45 percent of the high achieved in the 1995-96 market year. Wheat prices this last summer hit a 22-year record low. That's worse than anything we say in the early 1980's—the era that saw numerous farm foreclosures and massive farm aid. And wheat prices have actually dropped another 22 cents per bushel since last summer.

After three years of low prices, the farm crisis is not going away. USDA's best analysts have predicted that wheat prices will not improve without some sort of adverse weather problem somewhere in the world. USDA will update its price projections at this year's Outlook Forum in late February. However, current estimates predict another 18 months of low wheat prices.

In the face of continued financial stress, some have started to blame the 1996 Farm Bill. While the Bill did not prevent this disaster, it is not fair to claim that it caused it. Colorado wheat growers support the concept of "Freedom to Farm." We like having greater flexibility and the risk associated with it. Today's crisis would have been much more devastating had we been forced to abide by the old, top-down management of previous farm bills.

However, while we do not want "Freedom to Farm" repealed, there is clearly a need to improve federal farm policy before more farmers are forced off their land. The 1996 Farm Bill lacks a reliable farm safety net. With no floor, wheat prices continue to drop.

The Colorado Association of Wheat Growers (CAWG) believes that we must add a country-cyclical economic assistance payment to the farm bill. For two years, we have relied on emergency spending to provide the assistance we need. This ad hoc system should be replaced with a statutory payment triggered by low prices.

The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) is currently developing an outline for just such a payment. The plan will be finalized at the NAWG annual convention in February and presented during the House Agriculture Committee's field hearings this spring and summer.

There are also other things you and your colleagues can do today to help wheat growers. We continue to await congressional action on tax reform, Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China; crop insurance reform and sanction reform.

I am pleased to be with you today and pledge the support of CAWG to help you find real solutions.

Overall, Mr. Speaker, it was a good forum. The information derived must be used to ensure agriculture is not forgotten.

As the House prepares to reauthorize the 1996 Farm Bill the conclusion of the Colorado agriculture forum should be considered by our colleagues.

INTRODUCTION OF CARE 21

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to restore our Nation's historic commitment to insuring lifetime health care for retired coal miners. Joining me in introducing this bill, which will be known as CARE 21, is a bipartisan group of our colleagues: BOB NEY, SPENCER BACHUS, RICK BOUCHER, TIM HOLDEN, RON KLING, ALAN MOLLOHAN, JOHN MURTHA, TED STRICKLAND, and BOB WISE.

Enactment this year of CARE 21, the "Coal Accountability and Retired Employee Act for the 21st Century," is necessary if we are to avoid seeing a curtailment in health care coverage for thousands of retired coal miners and their widows. Indeed, this would not be the first time that Congress has acted in this matter. In 1992, in what is known as the "Coal Act" enacted as part of the Energy Policy Act, Congress established the UMW Combined Benefit Fund (CBF) combining the union's 1950 and 1974 benefit plans. This action came in response to changes in the coal industry which created a large class of 'orphaned' miners whose benefits were no longer being paid by an active coal company. A key feature of the Coal Act was the financing of orphaned miner health care costs through an annual transfer of a portion of the interest which accrues to the unappropriated balance in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

Simply put, in restoring abandoned coal mine lands we must not abandon the retired coal miner.

The Coal Act was working well, health care for retirees whose former employers could be identified would be financed by premiums paid by those companies while to date, \$193 million in reclamation fund interest and a one-time \$68 million additional appropriation has financed orphaned miner care.

However, a rash of recent adverse court decisions have been rendered which once again is threatening the financial integrity of the program. Among them, what is known as the "Chater" decision which overturned the Social Security Administration's premium determination reducing premiums by 10 percent. Another court decision ordered the CBF to refund about \$40 million in contributions. And the Supreme Court's decision in the Eastern Enterprise case added some 8,000 retirees to the orphaned miner rolls. The result: Without a new source of funds, the CBF will face a cash shortage beginning next year forcing the curtailment and ultimately the cessation of health care coverage for some 70,000 retirees and widows whose average age is 78.

CARE 21 takes a relatively simple and straightforward approach to addressing this impending crisis. First, it would transfer the amount of interest that is currently languishing in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to the CBF that was not previously made available for orphaned miner health care. This would provide an immediate infusion of roughly \$172 million. Second, it would lift the restriction in current law that reclamation fund interest can only be used for orphaned miner health care. This action would serve to cover future shortfalls in the CBF.

I would note that interest accrues to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund at a rate of about \$83 million a year. Meanwhile, there is a \$1.7 billion unappropriated balance in the Fund. CARE 21 in no way adversely affects the abandoned mine reclamation program. The principal remains intact for that effort, and is fueled by annual reclamation fees assessed on every ton of mined coal which finances the program.

As such, one of the key features of CARE 21 is that the general taxpayer is not being called upon to pay for retired coal miner health care, but rather, the coal industry itself would provide for this coverage through the interest which accrues to the fees it pays into the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I noted earlier there is a historical commitment to providing health care for retired coal miners. This is a unique situation in that what would normally be a matter solely for the private sectors is not in this instance. The genesis for this situation dates back to 1946 in an agreement between then-UMW President John L. Lewis and the Federal Government to resolve a long-running labor dispute. At the time, President Truman had ordered the Interior Secretary to take possession of all bituminous coal mines in the country in an effort to break a United Mine Workers of America strike. Eventually, Lewis and Secretary Julius Krug reached an agreement that included an industry-wide, miner controlled health plan.

In fact, the 1992 Coal Act itself was formulated partly on the basis of recommendations from the Coal Commission, established by former Labor Secretary Libby Dole, which in 1990 recommended a statutory obligation to help finance the UMW's Health Benefit Funds.

Mr. Speaker, the people covered by this health care program spent their careers producing the energy which powered this Nation to greatness. We must not forsake them. We must not cast them adrift in their later years, robbed of the health care they so desperately need.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACK METCALF

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, on March 28, I was excused from the business of the House. Had I been here, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 76 (H.R. 2412); "yes" on rollcall vote 77 (H. Con. Res. 292); "yes" on rollcall vote 78 (H. Con. Res. 269); "yes" on rollcall vote 79 (H.R. 5), The Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act.

2000 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 3908) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased today to support this important amendment, which will help clean up methamphetamine labs and come to the aid of law enforcement across the country.

Last year, funding was ended for this support program, and the funds were entirely diverted into training. I feel that decision was a mistake. Local law enforcement needs this money directly in order to offset the high costs associated with meth lab cleanups. They need it in order to more effectively fight the war on drugs and clean up the contamination and environmental problems these labs leave behind.

In my own district, individuals like Sheriff Eddie Bass of Giles County in Tennessee have effectively used these dollars in the past. Working in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Agency, Sheriff Bass has made great strides in reducing the number of methamphetamine labs in Giles County. But cleaning up these labs is expensive, very expensive for rural law enforcement agencies that have limited resources to begin with. Our rural law enforcement officers, like Sheriff Bass need our help to combat this national problem.

Sheriff Bass has already implemented state-of-the-art programs and facilities. I personally have toured the local jail in Giles County and can say from first-hand experience that it is deserving of every accolade as one of the model examples in the state. Now, I also want to provide him, and outstanding officials like him, the ability to continue the model meth lab cleanup programs that they had in place.

We must give officials like Sheriff Bass the support that they need. Otherwise, we will be sending them a message that it may not be financially worth their trouble to stop the production in these labs. Let's instead send a message to drug dealers and producers that we will stand behind the efforts of federal and local law enforcement in the war against drugs in our communities.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this amendment so that these dollars will once again be able to be used by local law enforcement officials like Sheriff Bass.

VETERANS' HISTORIAN AL KADY PRESERVES CENTRAL NEW JERSEY'S CIVIL WAR HERITAGE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of two veterans, of two wars, 80 years apart. Aaron Hush is an African-American Civil War veteran buried in South Brunswick. Al Kady is a World War II veteran and the military historian for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9111 who located Hush's burial ground in South Brunswick, NJ. I commend Mr. Kady for his commitment to locating and preserving a significant piece of New Jersey history.

Aaron Hush was a resident of nearby Franklin Township. Upon his death on January 20, 1916, he was laid to rest in the Sand Hills Area of South Brunswick Township, also known as the Thompson Plot.

The Record of Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Civil War has recorded that Aaron Hush served from February 29, 1864 until August 22, 1865, in the 32nd regiment of the United States Colored Troops. He is one of nearly 3,000 New Jersey African-American soldiers to serve in the Civil War.

The Emancipation Proclamation permitted African-American soldiers like Aaron Hush to enlist, be drafted, or receive bonuses to serve as replacements. Records reveal that 2,872 New Jersey African-Americans wore the uniform of the Union Army. There were 469 African-American casualties from New Jersey.

Mr. Kady has brought to life the importance of the Hush burial ground. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that the cemetery is preserved and maintained. He is to be commended for his dedication and hard work. As a veteran of World War II and past commander of VFW Post 9111, he knows the importance of maintaining sites important to our national heritage.

Mr. Kady will present a copy of Aaron Hush's discharge papers to the South Brunswick Township Council on April 11 for display in the township. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to learn about our local heritage, as well as our national history.

Mr. Speaker, VFW Post 9111 military historian Al Kady represents what is right with central New Jersey and the United States of America. His discovery and preservation of Hush's gravesite is a wonderful reminder to the community and the country at large. Kady has served his country in times of great national crisis and continues to do so by preserving history in central New Jersey.

This is an important example of what makes America special. A veteran of one war preserving the memory of a veteran of a different war; our common history bridging our individual differences.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Kady for his hard work and dedication to the preservation of historical landmarks throughout central New Jersey.

SUPPORT FOR THE CRUSADER

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Army's new advanced field artillery system, the Crusader. When fielded in 2008, Crusader will provide unprecedented fire support capability to the U.S. Army.

The DoD budget requests \$355.5 million in Fiscal Year 2001 to continue the development of the Crusader system.

Field artillery is the one combat capability where the United States significantly lags behind its allies and potential adversaries. While the Abrams tanks and the Bradley fighting vehicle is recognized as the best in the world, the U.S. field artillery ranks 9th in the world in terms of systems and the current howitzers is outperformed by at least four more modern foreign systems. With Crusader that balance will be reversed.

In anticipation of the fielding of the Crusader, the Army dramatically reduced its field artillery organization by eliminating six howitzers from each cannon battalion. Additionally,

the Army later reduced the number of tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and soldiers in its mechanized divisions. Again, this was done because of the offsetting capabilities of the Crusader advanced field artillery system. Should we not follow through with fielding the Crusader, then all these systems and soldiers would have to be added back to the Army organization and force structure to maintain its combat capability.

In recent testimony before our committee, General Shinseki, the Army Chief of Staff, emphasized the importance of the Crusader to the Army, both its counterattack corps and its transformation forces. He is fully supportive of its development and fielding and was the major architect of its modification to become more supportive of the Army transformation initiative and its objective force. General Shinseki insisted upon the maintenance of its key combat capabilities, (range, rate-of-fire, mobility and survivability) while enhancing its global, strategic deployability. With changes that will reduce the Crusader's weight to approximately 40 tons, two can be airlifted to any theater in the world on a single C5B aircraft. Those two howitzers will provide more fire support capability than six of today's Paladin systems. That six-gun Paladin unit with its 94 soldiers, like the one sent to Kosovo in Task Force Hawk, required 8 C-5B sorties to deploy, while a smaller, but more lethal Crusader capability would include just 31 soldiers and need only 4 C-5B sorties.

Mr. Speaker, the Army needs the Crusader to be developed and fielded without delay to enhance its capability to rapidly and globally respond to threats to the nation's interests and ultimately to win the nation's wars.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW LOTHROP HORNETS GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michigan's new girl's highschool volleyball State Champions, the New Lothrop Hornets.

At the start of a long and challenging season, New Lothrop's girl's volleyball team set out to achieve their goal of being the best. They believed in themselves and knew that with their heart, drive and tremendous teamwork the state championship was within their grasp. With the support of their fans and the community these athletes fought a hard battle, never once doubting their amazing ability. With their motto "Together we can," the women exemplified teamwork. Their combining passion for victory made them unstoppable.

At the recent championship match, the Hornets proved victorious and their coach Sheri Warner hoisted the championship trophy for their fans. This tremendous victory was well deserved. They have lead their community to new athletic heights and have become wonderful examples of good sportsman. They may now pride themselves not only with the spectacular honor of being Michigan's top women's volleyball team, but also carrying the title of New Lothrop's first prep volleyball champions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and the New Lothrop community in congratulating these women on their excellent talents and leadership skills.

THE GAMING INDUSTRY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, you hear many arguments surrounding the gaming industry in America. Some have merit, some do not. Some criticism is deserved, some is not. Mr. Speaker, before I make my statement today I want to make it abundantly clear that while I am not an ardent proponent of the gaming industry nor an ardent foe of the gaming industry, I am an ardent foe of illegal activity in the gaming industry. Furthermore, I am an ardent support of consumer rights and consumer rights is exactly what I intend to discuss today.

At the heart of my comments today is how certain gaming companies treat their patrons and how they conduct business. I believe that the vast majority of casino owners play by the rules, treat their patrons fairly, and provide quality entertainment for individuals and families. I have talked with many of these businessmen over the years who have conducted themselves in such a professional manner. However, there are a few bad apples out there who don't play by the rules and that is just plain wrong.

One such example is the case of Suncruz casino's based out of Florida. Florida authorities, particularly Attorney General Butterworth have repeatedly reprimanded Suncruz casinos and its owner Gus Boulis for taking illegal bets, not paying out their customers properly and has had to take steps to prevent Suncruz from conducting operations all together. In fact, a few years ago the Broward County Sheriffs Office, under the supervision of Mr Butterworth, raided Suncruz ships seizing their equipment.

Mr. Speaker, how Suncruz Casinos and Gus Boulis conduct themselves with regard to Florida laws is very unnerving. But the consumer rights issue is even more disheartening. On December 1, 1998 the Broward County Sheriffs department announced that they had uncovered evidence that dealers on SunCruz ships were "cheating passengers by using incomplete decks of cards." This type of conduct gives the gaming industry a black eye and should not be tolerated.

Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat myself again. The vast majority of casino owners and operators are good honest people, but when an owner or operator stoops to this level to make a buck it hurts the public and it hurts the industry as a whole. I believe we can strike a balance here and our first step is to ensure that the average citizen is not hoodwinked by a dishonest casino operator.

There should be clear codes of conduct that are adhered to by every casino owner and operator. On the Ohio River we have gaming interests that run clean operations and provide quality entertainment. I don't want to see the actions of one bad apple in Florida, or anywhere else to affect the business aspect of this industry or hurt any innocent casino patron in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that steps will be taken by the industry, and in the case of lawbreakers- by the appropriate authorities to weed out the bad apples so that we can protect consumers across the country.

WELCOMING PROBATE JUDGES

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome members and guests of the National College of Probate Judges to the Capitol today.

The National College of Probate Judges is comprised of judicial office holders across the country who adjudicate estates of decedents, who appoint guardians for individuals with incapacities and who hear mental health cases and cases involving persons with developmental disabilities.

Recently, the College promulgated standards and model legislation addressing interstate transfers of guardianships and conservatorships. The College is sponsoring an International Conference on Courts and the Aging to be held in London in July in conjunction with the American Bar Association.

I am particularly happy to welcome Judge Richard E. Burke, president of the College, who resides in New Canaan, Connecticut and is a constituent of mine. I am equally pleased to acknowledge the contributions of the following office holders and members: Judge Mary Sheffield—Rolla, Missouri; Judge Nikkie DeShazzo—Dallas, Texas; Judge John Maher—Kingston, New Hampshire; Judge Haywood Barry—Lebanon, Tennessee; Judge Patsy Stone—Florence, South Carolina; Judge Larry Belskis—Columbus, Ohio; Judge Larry Kay—San Francisco, California; Judge Ray Eubanks—Spartanburg, South Carolina; Judge Frank Riddick—Huntsville, Alabama; and Judge John N. Kirkendell—Ann Arbor, Michigan.

CHRISTIAN EMBASSY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of Christian Embassy, a spiritual resource to government and diplomatic leadership in Washington. I would like to congratulate its founders, Dr. and Mrs. William R. Bright, and honor them for their commitment to serving those of us who are public servants in our Nation's Capital.

Dr. Bright is also the founder and president of Campus Crusade for Christ, of which Christian Embassy is a part. He has authored numerous books and articles on the Christian life and has received a host of awards, among them the 1996 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

His wife, Vonette, is co-founder of Campus Crusade. Her commitment to prayer for our nation and work in the Kingdom of God is a tribute to their family.

Dr. and Mrs. Bright have spent many hours with political leaders in Washington, offering

encouragement and spiritual counsel. They feel strongly that leaders of integrity are vital in the task of strengthening the fabric of America and ensuring its stability for future generations.

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the inception of Christian Embassy, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the vision and faith of its founders, Dr. and Mrs. William R. Bright.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN FOR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND REAFFIRMING UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 292. On March 18th the people of Taiwan went to the polls for only the second time in their history to elect a national president. The U.S. has been stalwart in its support of democracies throughout the world and it is only fitting for Congress to congratulate Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan for upholding democracy in the elections. In their first transfer of power, the voters have spoken and voiced their support for Mr. Chen.

Holding an olive branch on election night, Mr. Chen stated his desire to invigorate negotiations with mainland China. A peaceful resolution that will preserve democracy in Taiwan must be pursued. I urge the Chinese government to reconsider its rejection of Mr. Chen's proposed peace summit.

China and Taiwan have a unique opportunity to showcase their economic strength in the region. If negotiations are stifled, the economic future of both countries will remain uncertain but political stability will determine their success in the new economy.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Chen and his party for their historic victory and urge him to continue on the road to peace and ask my colleagues to join me.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE DEVELOPMENTS IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2000

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues attention the nation of Kazakhstan. This young nation has emerged, under the leadership of its President Nursultan Nazarbayev, as a bastion of democracy and free market economics in Central Asia. I am entering into the RECORD two articles written recently by R. Emmett Tyrell, Jr. of the Conservative New Service who just returned from Kazakhstan reporting on that nation's ethnic and cultural diversity, its free media, and its strategic importance to the United States.

I recommend these two articles to my colleagues and ask them to join me in saluting Kazakhstan's struggle to right itself after 70 years of Soviet repression.

THE FORGOTTEN REPUBLICS

ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN.—This is the capital of Kazakhstan, once one of the feared republics of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the proving ground for much of the USSR's nuclear weaponry. Now it is a vast region—in terms of territory, the ninth largest nation on earth—populated by anti-Communists, many trained in Moscow. It was my pleasure the other day to visit the President's office and interview one of the country's most ardent anti-Communists, the President himself, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, a co-conspirator with Mikhail Gorbachev in the decomposition of the Soviet Union. Somehow Nazarbayev landed on his feet.

Entering the President's newly constructed offices with two other American journalists for a televised interview, I am reminded of how earnest the Yank journalists traveling abroad are in displaying their high journalistic standards. Was it Dan Rather who, at the beginning of an interview with the President of a recently constituted African republic, asked—pen poised above his note pad—"Mr. President, how exactly do you spell your name?" Oh, maybe it was not the earnest Dan. But surely some American at large in the faraway has popped such a question.

The journalists with whom I travel are not quite so self-conscious. In fact, we did not even ask Mr. Nazarbayev for his card. We remembered him from the last days of the Soviet Union. Now he is trying to bring stable, capitalistic growth to his country, to develop its rich natural resources (especially oil), to maintain cordial relations with the United States, and to ensure the development of a democratic regime in a country that was recently Communist and before that a collection of unstable principalities—mostly Moslem—governing nomadic tribes. This last goal is somewhat controversial. The President's critics, here and abroad, doubt his seriousness about making Kazakhstan democratic. Yet some of his critics abroad are obviously ill-informed.

A representative of the Helsinki Commission recently alleged that Kazakhstan has only two cardboard parties. It has four, apparently quite vital, political parties contending in the parliament alone. I have interviewed representatives from three, the last being an affable Communist, Professor (what did you expect?) Serikbolsyn A. Abdildin, chairman of the Kazakhstan Communist Party. We exchanged banter about the greatness of Marx. He was speaking of Karl, I of Groucho—though I also have a very high opinion of Harpo—who was a manifestly superior thinker than Karl, and whose philosophical errors led to at least a couple of hundred million fewer deaths. Professor Abdildin still thinks nothing of the hundred million or so whom Moscow's Marxists put to death. Mistakes were made, but now on to his new "social agenda."

On the outskirts of Astana there is a sobering monument that has been raised to the Kazakhstani victims of the Soviet concentration camps. Nazarbayev's government threw it up immediately following Kazakhstan's independence—there are not many Kazakhs in doubt as to the barbarism of "Soviet times," a barbarism that many Westerners missed.

Though Nazarbayev is coy as to precisely why he came to disrelish the Soviet system and what brought about its fall, he has

pushed pretty hard to eliminate it. He does say—as do most sophisticated Kazakhs—that by the 1980s he could see that, in economic terms, Marxism was a disaster. There can be no doubt he favors the market. "The planned economy," he tells us, did not respond to market conditions, which reminds me of all the progressive American economists who told us "the market" was a fiction of Milton Friedman's imagination. Let them consult the President of Kazakhstan and his Moscow-trained allies who are welcoming American corporations along with what he calls "small and middle-sized" businesses.

Nazarbayev returns to the theme of democracy. He complains that a State Department human rights report critical of his government is fraught with errors, errors that he insists our Ambassador has acknowledged. He wants his country to be "a strategic partner" with the United States. And the expresses concern over terrorists at his border who claim to be Islamic fundamentalists. Nazarbayev sees them less as pietists than as terrorists and brigands. He worries that they are a potential threat to Kazakhstan's economic development.

I cannot say with utter confidence that Kazakhstan is a completed democracy. It has a multiplicity of political parties competing among the electorate and in parliament. It has religious tolerance. Islam and Christianity are practiced in public. There is a free press gaining strength, though how free it is remains a question to me. It does seem that Kazakhstan is well on its way under Nazarbayev to economic development along market lines and to some sort of democracy that is a long way from its recent Soviet past. Many of Nazarbayev's critics in the West were not nearly so vocal in their denunciations of the Soviet Union's democratic failures as they are of Nazarbayev's alleged failures.

What can he do to escape their complaints? My advice is for him to announce that he is returning to the Communist fold. Furthermore, he is re-arming his nuclear weapons. Under him, Kazakhstan, once the fourth largest nuclear arsenal on earth, became the first nation in history to disarm its nuclear force. Now he is the target of the West's perfectionists. They never treated his Soviet predecessors so rudely. And the only people I have met in Kazakhstan who share their critique are an Islamic Kazakh nationalist and the amusing Professor Abdildin.

And allow me one final report. As Vladimir Putin makes his way to the Presidency of Russia, I have been asking prominent Kazakhs, many of whom visit Moscow frequently, as Kazakhstan remains part of the Commonwealth of Independent States, if his election might prefigure a return to Russian bellicosity. The Kazakhs, having suffered two centuries of Russian aggression, have more reason to fear such a turn of events than most peoples. Economic conditions in Russia will not allow renewed Soviet expansion, they tell me, and the Russians know it. Maybe the Russians do not even yearn for such grim days. Mr. Putin, however, strikes me as an unusual world leader. He is tight-lipped in public. The roll of his shoulders when he walks should remind us that he is a conditioned athlete, a practitioner of the martial arts. One hopes he gets sufficient exercise in the gym.

[From the Washington Times, March 24, 2000]

AMERICAN MODEL FOR KAZAKHS

R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr.

ASTANA, Kazakhstan.—I am freezing here in the snow-covered capital of what was until 1991 one of the fearsome republics of the now-defunct U.S.S.R.

Kazakhstan had a large army, the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world, and a

loyal Communist Party, propagating the word that the West was corrupt, overrun with gangsters and a constant threat to Kazakhstan's benevolent socialist society.

Today I am traveling along the potholed streets of that advanced society. Here, in the new Kazakh capital not far from the Russian border, and a few days ago in Almaty, an older and even bleaker city, I see the grim dilapidation of the banks of government housing, the aged infrastructure, and the sad victims of Soviet communism trudging the streets, and I remember.

Was it not John Kenneth Galbraith and like-minded progressive economists who told us as recently as 1985 that the Soviet economy was a robust competitor to the West? It was, and when a few months later Mikhail Gorbachev pronounced the Soviet economy a disaster, his remarks, you can be sure, made no dent in Mr. Galbraith's arrogance.

Were Professor Galbraith with me today what would his retort be to the dozen or so bright, optimistic government officials rattling off their programs for using the market economy to extract from Kazakh territory the valuable minerals and oil their communist predecessors wasted or ignored? Today's government officials, mostly the products of Moscow's universities during what they call "Soviet times," all say that by the 1980s they recognized the futility of the communists' "command economy."

When in the early 1990s they had an opportunity to break with the Soviet Union, they did. They set off on the present program of economic development with free and global markets. They became the only nation ever to give up its nuclear arms. Western democracy became their model, and they opted for the American social system.

The American model of the melting pot that allows ethnic and religious pluralism is important to Kazakhstan. In "Soviet times," its vast unpopulated territory, covering 4 times as much land as Texas, was used by Moscow to dump millions of peoples the Soviets deemed undesirable. Along with the indigenous Kazakhs, there are Germans, Koreans, Poles, Crimean Tartars, Ukrainians and others. But the second-most populous of Kazakhstan's people are Russians.

Josef Stalin encouraged millions of idealistic Russian communists to come here after World War II to fortify the U.S.S.R.'s southern border against China and against Muslim fundamentalists who have lived in Central Asia for 1,000 years.

In the 1960s, millions more Russians came as part of Moscow's Virgin Lands policy to make Kazakhstan more profitable.

The consequence was environmental catastrophe. Nuclear experiments that included Moscow's first hydrogen bomb and other military experiments have rendered many areas of the country health hazards. The agricultural and industrial programs of the Virgin Lands imbecility left 20 million tons of industrial waste polluting the countryside and the Aral Sea drying up. Denied its water from rivers that were diverted to irrigate futile cotton plantings, the seabed has become a scab on the Earth.

Cleaning up from "Soviet times," is a major burden on the government made all the more difficult by Russia's refusal to explain the nature of its military experiments. So, too, is maintaining a socially cohesive society, through that challenge seems easier. Everywhere one looks, one sees a society divided, essentially into two ethnic groups; the Russians, who look like Western Europeans and compose 38 percent of the population, and the Kazakhs, who look Asiatic and compose 51 percent of the population. Yet there seems to be little friction between these populations. Both seem bound together in contempt for the old Soviet system and hope for their country's future.

The Russian zealots who came here as colonists after World War II, and in the Virgin Land program have now mostly returned to Russia, 2 million tired and aged idealists looking, looking for retirement back home and graves in Russian soil—another of communism's sad chapters.

The elected president of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, an erstwhile collaborator of Mr. Gorbachev's in perestroika, shares the hopes of other government officials. In interviewing him, I note he repeatedly speaks of his faith in free markets, democracy and a "strategic partnership" with the United States. Kazakhstan with its long borders beside Russia and China is strategically important to the West and has been since the 19th century when the British tangled with Russia politically in what history remembers as "the Great Game."

Equally important are the oil and other resources that Kazakhstan has in abundance and that American companies are developing. Some observers back in the States are critical of Mr. Nazarbayev's claims to democracy and perhaps even to friendship with the West. Their suspicions are understandable. Many in this government were trained by Moscow's totalitarians.

Yet from my observations, this developing country now has at least four highly competitive political parties, nearly 1,000 media organs mostly privately owned, the freedoms of our Bill of Rights, and commendable tolerance.

Moreover, Kazakhstan has something its critics in the West lack, the zeal of converts. In asking scores of Kazakhs how they came to their free-market and democratic values, the interviewer learns the Kazakhs were amazed by what they saw in the West as

their closed society developed cracks in the 1980's. President Nazarbayev says he saw the Soviet system "could not compete" with the West economically. He and his younger political aides developed the convert's zeal to move their country to the model that was so manifestly superior to the Soviet model.

And, I ask my Kazakh hosts, how did those cracks develop in the closed society? They answer that the arms race launched by President Reagan bankrupted the Soviet Union. Meanwhile the Reagan administration's public information agencies got word of democracy and freedom through the cracks. Mr. Reagan's boasts about America being a "shining city on a hill" resonated with those who today are leading Kazakhstan to Western prosperity.

Yet Mr. Reagan's eloquence had its limits. It never impressed John Kenneth Galbraith.